

ABSTRACT**Summary of Request:**

Laney College, a publicly-funded community college in Oakland, California, respectfully requests a multi-year grant in the amount of \$1,676,138 from the U.S. Department of Education's 2010 Asian American, Native American, and Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Program. The grant will be used to support the Laney College AANAPISI Initiative, which was founded in Spring 2010 with the mission of improving the institution's ability to serve its large and diverse AANAPISI population. An initial needs analysis reveals the pressing need to improve academic performance indicators and transfer pathways for the college's AANAPISI students, particularly for those from underperforming sub-groups. The college seeks to improve its systems for the collection and analysis of AANAPISI student data to more accurately tailor programs and services for this important yet underserved target group.

The Laney AANAPISI Initiative is committed to a) applying the findings and recommendations of the latest educational research to Laney's policies and practices, to better understand and improve the educational experience of the college's AANAPISI students, b) to using this research to improve programs and services for this target population, and c) developing cultural competencies of the college to frame and reframe teaching and leadership pedagogies. Deliverables include: an AANAPISI center, learning communities, professional development, and research. The project meets Invitational Priorities 1, 2, and 3.

Laney College Overview: Providing Access to Education for a Diverse Urban Population

Founded in 1953, Laney College is one of four colleges in the Peralta Community College District, which serves six cities in Alameda County: Oakland, Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, and Piedmont. Today Laney is the largest of the Peralta colleges, with a headcount of 14,735 (Fall 2009), representing 43 percent of the total district enrollment.

Laney's public access mission and its low tuition make it the educational provider of choice for many low-income and educationally disadvantaged residents of Oakland and the surrounding area, including many immigrants and English language learners. Like the other Peralta colleges, Laney has seen a marked increase in enrollment over the last three years, with total headcount increasing from 11,908 in Fall 2006 to 14,735 in Fall 2009—an increase of nearly 24 percent. Laney expects enrollment to continue to grow given rising unemployment and recent enrollment caps and tuition hikes at University of California and California State University schools.

Laney offers 32 Associate of Arts and 12 Associate of Sciences degrees. It also offers 28 vocational certificate programs, as well as career pipeline programs in high-growth industries.

The college has 260 faculty members (122 FTE; 138 PTE). The faculty-to-student ratio is 1:57. While the college strives to maintain a diverse staff reflective of its student body, only 21 instructors (17%) are Asian or Pacific Islanders. Only one instructor is Native American.

Unlike traditional four-year schools, which serve a young college-age population, Laney serves students ranging from below age 15 (through concurrent enrollment agreements) to over age 60. Most students fall into one of two main age groups: 19-24 year-olds (32%) and 35-54 year-olds (25%). More than 52 percent of students are women. Additionally, district research (2009) shows that 77 percent of students attend part-time and 64 percent are matriculated. AANAPISI students are the largest student category at 28 percent (Asian Pacific Islanders-25%; Filipinos-2%; Native Americans-1%), followed by African Americans (23%) and Latinos (21%).