

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Educators Network

Virtual Meeting – Monday, May 9, 2022

Moderator and Panelists' Bios



Bhargavi Gharimella (Moderator)

Student, Harvard University

I am a student at Harvard College, where I study art, film, and life sciences. While a student at Leland High School, I worked with the Santa Clara County Office of Education and the My Name, My Identity Initiative to create social justice workshops and curriculum for students and educators. As an aspiring physician, I am particularly passionate about dismantling imperialist systems that structure our knowledge and imagination and building community rooted in life and liberation.



Kalyssa Choy

Student, Branham High School

My name is Kalyssa Choy, and I am a Chinese-American sophomore at Branham High School. My Asian-American identity is something very prevalent in my life, and has impacted me in many ways. Because of the disconnection I have had with my heritage while growing up, I have had difficulties trying to accept and know where I am from. I am grateful to live in an area with lots of diversity, but I still have to face the challenges of finding who I am and battling the normalized racism ingrained in American culture. Even so, I am not afraid to speak out about the wrongs or hurtful nature of some people's actions when I am faced with insensitive instances, and I will continue to advocate for my beliefs. As I continue to grow, I keep the mottos "you only live once" and "everything happens for a reason" in mind. Although it is very cliché, I think it gives the events in my life more meaning and pushes me to reach my goals. I am still on my journey of learning more and getting more connected with my heritage, and I am excited to see what lies ahead of me.



Nihal Sahul

Student, Evergreen Valley High School

I am Nihal, a current senior at Evergreen Valley High School, and I am part of the Peer Advocate Advisory Council. I go by he/him.



Jina So

Student, Independence High School

My name is Jina So and I am currently a junior at Independence High School. I was born in Ansan, South Korea, and my family moved to the United States in search of better job opportunities. Ever since then, we have been staying here in California. Despite the short amount of time I've been in South Korea, it has been a major part of my identity and has contributed to my growth as an individual. At Independence High School, I have been involved with many clubs such as Interact and ARK! I am the publicist for Interact Club (International Action) and the co-president for ARK (Acts of Random Kindness) Club. In my free time, I enjoy reading, drawing, listening to music, and watching TV shows.



Tiffany Mai Tran

Student, Andrew P. Hill High School

Tiffany Mai Tran is a senior at Andrew P. Hill High School. Tiffany is a second generation Vietnamese American and lives in San Jose. They are a youth leader with South Bay Youth Changemakers and are passionate about exploring science and advocacy work for the community, especially in regard to access to healthcare. In their free time, they like to draw and collect stuffed animals.
