UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN HONOR OF MAY AS ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) Student Senate is the official voice of the student body; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire’s EDI commitment aims to create a campus that is open, supportive, and focused on dismantling racism, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was first officially recognized in 1978 by Jimmy Carter; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States and mark the anniversary of the transcontinental railroad which was laid by majority of Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander history is often overlooked in American K12 textbooks;

WHEREAS, Asian people account for 5.9% of the United States population and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander alone account for .2% of the population; and

WHEREAS, Asian people for 3.4% of the entire student body of UW Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans face many struggles in the United States such as the “Model Minority Dilemma” which can cause serious health problems such as high blood pressure, anxiety, and depression; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Multicultural Affairs, Center for International Education, and student organizations such as Hmong Student Association, Malaysians Abroad Diversified, Korean Student Association, and others have all worked hard to create a diverse palate of events and activities for the 2021 Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

WHEREAS, a full list of events of events that will celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month can be found on the university’s webpage; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an alarming increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans and the attackers are rarely charged for their crimes;

1 https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/#:~:text=Like%20most%20commemorative%20months%2C%20Asian,Pacific%2FAsian%20American%20Heritage%20Week.
2 https://time.com/5949028/asian-american-history-schools/
3 https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045219
4 https://www.uwec.edu/institutional-research/factbook-landing-page/factbook-enrollment/
5 https://www.bu.edu/articles/2021/asian-americans-and-the-model-minority-dilemma/
WHEREAS, African Americans have faced social, economic, and systematic oppression for centuries; and

WHEREAS, leaders that are Asian American and/or Pacific Islander such as Anna May Wong, Dalip Singh Saund, Yuji Ichioka, Sammy Lee, and Yo-Yo Ma have made significant social contributions to our society\(^7\); and

WHEREAS, inventors and scientists that are Asian American and/or Pacific Islander such as Kalpana Chawla, Dr. David Ho, Reshma Saujani, Chien-Shiung Wu, Isabella Aiona Abbott, Ellison Onizuka, Satya Nadella, Jerry Yang many more have significantly contributed to STEM based fields and make the vast majority of people’s lives easier\(^8\); and

WHEREAS, recognizing and celebrating months like Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month further the importance of EDI across the UW-Eau Claire campus; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Student Senate officially recognizes May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate calls upon the university and its administration to continue to recognize, support, and celebrate May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate will make every effort to attend all the university’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, due to the increased racial incidents against the Asian American community, it is essential that the university furthers its efforts to protect those individuals and others with marginalized identities and provide resources for them to navigate today’s environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate recognizes that AAPI History is American History and will continue to support academic courses and certificates that promote that message; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Ziebell will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Teresa E. O’Halloran, J.D., Interim Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Student Affairs, Director, Affirmative Action, Title IX Coordinator; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Grace Crickette Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Jake Wrasse M.A., Legislative and Community Relations Liaison; Kristin Schumacher M. A., Director, University Centers; Justice Wesson, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County

Submitted By:
Haadia Malik, Equity In Student Matters Commission Senate Director, Off-Campus Senator
Meej Tshaj Muas, Equity In Student Matters Commission Member, On-Campus Senator

\(^7\) https://redtri.com/american-historical-figures/slide/6
\(^8\) https://www.pbs.org/articles/2020/05/aapi-history-spotlight-saluting-stem-pioneers/