Mission

The ACEC’s mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We also aim to educate the campus community on issues centered around or related to our communities.
ACEC’s Story

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is the most recent addition to Cultural and Community Centers (CCCs) through the advocacy and activism of the Asian American Student Union (AASU), in collaboration with the faculty. While the development of the ACEC is ongoing, it can currently accommodate a maximum of 40 people for coalition building, meetings, programs, and gatherings, while also serving as a study space. In addition, the ACEC features an HDTV for presentations and entertainment, a community microwave and hot water kettle for tea, and a lending library containing resources such as printed books and journals as well as media specific to Asian Pacific Islander Desi American history, literature, culture, and representation.
ACEC Leadership

Dr. Nina Ha
Director, ACEC

Dr. Theo Lim
ACEC Faculty Fellow (2022–2023) and APIDA Caucus Co-Chair

Dr. Vincent Wang
ACEC Faculty Fellow (2020–2021) APIDA Caucus Co-Chair

Dr. Carola Haas
ACEC Faculty Fellow (2021–2022)
Exodus (K-Pop Dance Group) performing at VT basketball game in Fall 2021 (above)
Mixed Race APIDA Panel (below)

01.
APIDA Students

APIDA Demographic Data
Enrollment Data

**AY 20–21**
- Undergraduate: 3325
- Graduate: 366
- Vet Med: 18
- MD: 18

**AY 21–22**
- Undergraduate: 3551
- Graduate: 391
- Vet Med: 12
- MD: 16
First Generation Students

AY 20–21

- Undergraduate: 807
- Graduate: 29
- Vet Med: 0

AY 21–22

- Undergraduate: 893
- Graduate: 26
- Vet Med: 1

Student Type (first Gen/asian)
AANAPISI Enrollment by College

AY 22–23

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS): 276
College of Architecture, Arts, and Design (CAAD): 129
Pamplin College of Business (PCOB): 856
College of Engineering (COE): 1673
InterCollege (IC): 116
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS): 243
College of Science (COS): 746
College of Veterinary Medicine (VetMed): 56
College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE): 61
VT Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM): 30
Virginia Tech is one of three federally designated Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Reference: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/idues/eligibility.html#el-inst
02. Programming

Educational and Cultural Programs

Photo: VT is for Lovers Event
Overview

The ACEC provides educational programming to the Virginia Tech community and beyond. Its work engages APIDA students across the university to learn more about their heritage, highlight accomplishments by VT APIDAs, and address holistic student development. Intersectional programming with other campus partners including the other Cultural and Community Centers, academic colleges, and student groups, provide opportunities for meaning making and identity formation of the VT APIDA student community.
ACEC Programming

Nighttime Guided Meditation with Vivek Rajan

Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 8 PM EST

Vivek Rajan was trained and certified as a meditation teacher at the Art of Living Center in Washington D.C. in 2009 and has led these programs for hundreds of people nationally.

Questions? Contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

Learning Lunch Series

Dr. Kevin Cheng
Colloquium Assistant Professor in personal finance and consumer studies
Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management

Dr. Kevin Cheng is a personal finance and consumer studies educator. He holds a PhD in personal financial planning from the University of Florida. His research focuses on retirement planning, student loans, and emergency savings. He has presented his research at a number of national and international conferences. His industry experience is within the areas of employee retirement planning, financial counseling, and insurance.

October 21, 2022 | 12-1 PM EST
Squires Room 140 or via Zoom
Light refreshments will be provided.

Questions or accommodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

Asian Cultural Engagement Center

AASU Annual Fall Culture Show

Sunday 10/23/22
6:00-9:00 PM
Doors Open 5:30 PM
Haymarket Theater in Squires

Questions or accommodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

APIDA Mental Health Support Group

The topic for this event will be microaggressions. Light refreshments will be provided.

Questions or accommodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.
Collaborative/Intersectional Programming

ACEC at VT Annual Report 2021-2022
Collaborations

Cultural and Community Centers

ACEC partners with other CCCs to produce events that highlight intersectional interests and identities.
Collaborations

ACEC at VT

Annual Report 2021–2022

Colleges

ACEC partners with Academic Affairs to build community and also educate on pressing issues, like Critical Race Theory.
Collaborations

Campus Partners

The ACEC works with other campus constituents like the Jewish Student Union (JSU) and Hillel in their intersectional programming.
“If you want to do it, do it! Trying new things can be very scary but sometimes taking that chance can possibly lead you to the best thing that ever happened to you! By taking these chances, you are able to learn more about yourself.”

—Samantha Shim
Signature Programs

Signature programming at the ACEC speaks to the unique ways that it aims to address the needs of APIDA students at Virginia Tech. The ACEC adds to students’ sense of belonging and community through signature events such as: Learning Lunch, InspirASIAN Series, Mental Health Support Group, and Nighttime Guided Meditation.

Photo: Fall 21 Ramen for Reading Day
InspirASIAN Series

APIDA faculty, staff, and students present on topics to broaden the understanding of the racial identity and culture within the APIDA community. These program seek to inspire the community and showcase the contributions and knowledge from these amazing panelists.
APIDA faculty members share their personal and professional journeys into higher education with the Virginia Tech community over lunch. These events highlight the amazing contributions of the VT APIDA faculty and hope to spark interest in students.
Nighttime Guided Meditation

Students and other community members care for their mental health through this ACEC signature event. Vivek leads participants on a journey of relaxation and meditation culminating in a restful night and enhancing mental health.

Nighttime Guided Meditation with Vivek Rajan
Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 8 PM EST

Vivek Rajan was trained and certified as a meditation teacher at the Art of Living Center in Washington D.C. in 2009 and has led these programs for hundreds of people nationally.

Questions? Contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu.

Zoom Link: https://bit.ly/3zq4zLY
Ramen for Reading Day

A popular event at the ACEC, Ramen for Reading Day offers students a way to fuel up for upcoming final exams. Students from across the university flock to the ACEC to enjoy ramen, community, and learn more about the Center.
April marks the celebrASIAN of APIDAs. APIDA Heritage Month serves as a time to highlight the accomplishments and contributions of APIDAs. Programs include inviting alumni for panel discussions, artists/scholars in residence, and other forms of celebration including APIDA student organizations’ Culture Shows and AASU Featured Guest Speaker(s).
APIDA Heritage Month

Photos from various events during APIDA Heritage Month including the Spring Cultural Shows and Artist in Residence – Purvi Shah.

Photos: AASU Cultural Show

Photo: Purvi Shah, Artist in Residence
03.

Education

Photo: BCC/ACEC Collaboration
The ACEC’s primary mission is the education and developmental support of APIDA undergraduate and graduate students at Virginia Tech. As part of this mission, the ACEC promotes APIDA-related courses taught across the university. The Center also hosts programming including the Learning Lunch and InspirASIAN series to highlight the work of APIDA faculty, students, and staff across the university and beyond. Other opportunities involve the Mentorship Program between APIDA graduate students and APIDA faculty. This programming provides APIDA students with the opportunity to increase their racial salience and offers inspiration to persist in their work and reach their goals.
“Befriending many like-minded individuals with diverse backgrounds who were extremely accepting of myself in the organization made me feel at home and comfortable in my own skin.”

—Sadaf Sizdahkhani
Asian American Student Union

The mission of the Asian American Student Union is to serve the APIDA communities within Virginia Tech. It acts as the umbrella organization over the branching undergraduate APIDA organizations. It strives to enhance and further the individual, cultural, and ethnic diversities that exist in the APIDA communities. It makes efforts to address the problems, issues and concerns of the APIDA communities to the administration and other fellow student organizations.
GAPIDA is committed to addressing the needs and interests of APIDA graduate and professional students by fostering a space to support inclusion and collaboration while our members are learning, teaching, and researching at Virginia Tech. GAPIDA strives to provide critical resources to ensure the academic, professional, and personal success of our members by developing a powerful network of APIDA scholars who can diversify and enrich the larger community in the spirit of Ut Prosim.
“Having that shared sense of community and culture can be really reassuring and supportive, especially when a lot of us graduate students are away from home. It also means you can share certain experiences or struggles and have people understand them on a much deeper level.”

—Emily Kim
04.
Alumni Engagement

Photo: APIDA Alumni Society Tailgate
APIDA Alumni Engagement

Tailgates
Engagement during the Hokie Football season

Alumni Panel Presentations
Sharing knowledge and experiences during APIDAHM

Achievement Ceremony
Acknowledgement of amazing APIDA accomplishments

APID Alumni Society
Established in 2021 to engage with APIDA Hokie alumni
APID Alumni Society

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi Alumni Society (APIDAS) of Virginia Tech is an organization dedicated to fostering community for all Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni. In addition to building a community of alums, we strive to foster mentorships with current undergraduate and graduate students, provide networking opportunities, and give back to our alma mater from wherever they are.

Photo: APIDA Alumni Society Tailgate
05. Community Engagement

Photo: Virginia Asian Advisory Board
Community Engagement

The ACEC actively engages with various advocacy groups aimed at advancing solutions to address critical social and economic issues the APIDA population face in the Commonwealth.

Photo: Virginia Asian Advisory Board
Community Engagement

VA Asian Advisory Board
The VAAB advises the Governor on ways to improve economic and cultural links between the Commonwealth and Asian nations, with a focus on the areas of commerce and trade, art and education, and general government; as well as issues affecting the Asian community in the Commonwealth.

VA New American Advisory Board
This Advisory Board advises the Governor’s Office on economic, social, and cultural issues related to immigrant integration within the Commonwealth.

VA AAPI Caucus
Consisting of members of the House of Delegates and the State Senate that identify as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), the purpose of VAAPIC is to promote the equity and well-being of fellow AAPI Virginians who share similar backgrounds and interests.

Hamake Center
Hamkae Center works to organize Asian Americans in Virginia for social, racial, and economic justice.
06.

Future Initiatives
Future Plans

- APIDA Living Learning Community
- ACEC Advisory Board
- Scholar/Artist in Residence
- Hosting an ECASU Conference
- APIDA Men’s Support Group
- APIDA Women’s Support Group
- APIDA Queer & Questioning Support Group
Thank you

Connect with us through

Website: https://ccc.vt.edu/index/acec.html

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/VTACEC/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/vtacec/

YouTube: https://tinyurl.com/yeyt7ey7

Twitter: https://twitter.com/acec_vt