Commission on
Asian & Pacific Islander
American Affairs

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California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) Announces Executive Director Transition

Sacramento, CA – The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (CAPIAA) announces the transition of Executive Director, Nkauj Iab Yang, effective June 30, 2023. During her tenure as the Commission's first Executive Director, Yang played a vital role in building the foundation for increased capacity and impact. She demonstrated exceptional leadership skills in developing and upholding the Commission's Strategic Core Goals, which include advancing a collective vision and agenda for the diverse Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities, improving state policies and programs to meet their needs, amplifying diverse AANHPI narratives, and strengthening internal Commission infrastructure to effectively deliver programs that align with the Commission's mission.

Under Yang's leadership, the Commission achieved significant milestones. Collaborating with the Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, the Governor's Office, legislative staff, budget staff, and the community, they secured a historic $166.5 million to address hate incidents, hate crimes, increase ethnic media capacity, data equity, and education attainment. The Commission also worked with the State Legislature, budget staff, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE), and allies to secure $16 million, ongoing, for the California Asian American and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Student Achievement Programs for the California Community Colleges and California State University systems. Yang also served as the lead consultant from the Commission on the California Department of Social Services' Stop the Hate and Transformative Grant Programs, as well as the California State Library's Ethnic Media Outreach Grant Program. Additionally, Yang served on the Leadership Committee for the Orange County Department of Education's Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Hmong model curriculum project for the California Department of Education.

During her tenure, Yang was also responsible for increasing the Commission's staff, launching its website, and conducting the Commission's first-ever statewide AANHPI listening tour. With Yang's departure, the Commission is now conducting a search for its next Executive Director, building upon its current successes into the future. Additional information regarding the application process and requirements can be found at capiaa.ca.gov/apply. For more information, please contact the Commission's ED Search Committee, Commissioner Jason Paguio and Commissioner Rajan Gill at info@capiaa.ca.gov.

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The California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American *Affairs elevates the political, economic, and social issues of Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) by contributing to and strengthening how state government address the needs, issues, and concerns of the diver and complex AANHPI communities.*

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