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The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Coordinating committee of the National Science Foundation (NSF) hosted a workshop on AAPI issues on November 3-4, 2003. The conference was held in Arlington, Virginia at the National Science Foundation. Participants included a diverse group of forty professionals, as well as NSF staff, all sharing a commitment to succeed in balancing the mix of Asian American and Pacific Islanders' participation in research and education programs. The workshop served as a forum for providing valuable insight into AAPI issues with the goal that all participants benefit from the exchange of information. The structure of the workshop stressed participant input, focusing on developing and connecting outreach, education, research, and workforce threads.

The AAPI Coordinating Committee functions under the direction of Dr. Joseph Bordogna, Deputy Director of the National Science Foundation. It serves in response to a White House Initiative, by Executive Order 13216, with the goal of increasing the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in federal programs where they are currently underserved.

The AAPI Workshop was designed as a means of directly consulting with representatives of the Asian American and Pacific Island community as an initial and vital step towards developing a comprehensive plan that will best address their needs. Toward this end, the goals of the workshop were as follows:

1. To identify ways in which NSF can broaden AAPI participation in NSF programs and the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. Of particular interest is outreach to potential grantees (principal investigators, postdocs, and students) in Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.
2. To acknowledge and celebrate the vast range of successes and contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islander scientists and engineers.

This workshop is an initial step towards the National Science Foundation's plan to increase communication and the dissemination of information in alignment with the goals of the White House Initiative and the AAPI Coordinating Committee. Speakers and participants will help define critical issues. It is expected that the networking accomplished, during the workshop activities and through the follow up report, will have a positive impact on communication and the dissemination of information for all participants, their colleagues, and all stakeholders.

