



**2012 FIRST ANNUAL SUMMIT FOR  
PACIFIC ISLANDER  
RESOURCES & EDUCATION**

FROM TALKING STORY TO TAKING ACTION:  
RAISING PACIFIC ISLANDER VOICES IN EDUCATION

SEATTLE, WA

SEPTEMBER 29, 2012

## **First Annual Summit for Pacific Islander Resources & Education**

### **From Talking Story to Taking Action: Raising Pacific Islander Voices in Education**

Pacific Islanders (PIs) are the fastest-growing demographic in Washington State, and initial data on achievement gaps indicate a need for a more focused approach in addressing the educational disparities within the PI community. Scholars have called for a disaggregation of Asian and Pacific Islander data in order to better understand and highlight previously obscured, yet critical, issues affecting the PI community, and PIs are mobilizing for policy changes to address these needs.

In this first annual summit, our purpose is to engage and give voice to the broad range of PI community constituents who are concerned with PI education from early learning through higher education. The goal of this forum is to identify critical issues affecting PI education and successful strategies which can be used to develop a reform agenda to inform culturally-compatible policy and practices at all levels, from individual, family, and community to local, state, and national.

The ASPIRE 2012 Planning Committee was tasked with ensuring that the Annual Summit for Pacific Islander Resources and Education Summit (ASPIRE) creates a space for Pacific Islander students, parents, families, educators, and community members to come together to share and exchange perspectives, lived experiences, resources, and information on the issues facing their children in the education system. The goal of ASPIRE is to build momentum behind an education reform agenda, inspired through community organizing, that supports Pacific Islander students.

### **Washington State Asian and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative**

ASPIRE is a project of the Washington State Asian and Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative, which was launched in 2011 to prepare API families, community leaders and organizations to be full partners in education policymaking. The initiative is designed to address disparities and build on the achievement gap reports released in 2008 to close the educational opportunity gaps for API students. Partners include the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Think Tank, the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition, and the Win/Win Network.

## ASPIRE 2012 PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Co-Chairs:** Sheryl A. Day & Rochelle Fonoti

**Project Coordinator:** Michael Itti

**Secretary:** Lourdes Gutierrez

**Resource Fair Coordinator:** Suni Tolton

**APIATT Liasons:** Sili Savusa & Daniel Kaopuiki

**Youth Session Organizers:** Va'eomatoka K. Valu & Lina Thompson

**Facilitator Training:** Stella Gran-O'Donnell

### SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ASPIRE 2012 Planning Committee would like to acknowledge the many unnamed but dedicated members and friends of our community and the following individuals for their valuable contributions who have played a part in helping to make this historic event a success:

Mele Taumoepeau 'Aho, Tongan Community of Seattle

Dr. Frank Ashby, South Seattle Community College

Matthew Day, Washington Karate - Ballard Dojo

Dr. Shirley Hune, University of Washington

Ben Ibale, Washington Education Association

Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, Univ. of Wash. Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity

May Toy Lukens, South Seattle Community College

Taffy-Lei Maene, United Territories of Polynesian Islanders Alliance

Mark Mitsui, North Seattle Community College

Karen Peterson, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Melissa Ponder, Mel Ponder Photography

Lua Pritchard, Asia Pacific Cultural Center

Lucy Purcell, Alaska Airlines Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group

Noel Quitugua, Chamorro Historian, Artist, Former teacher and CNMI Curator

Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, South Seattle Community College

Frieda Takamura, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

Dr. David Takeuchi, University of Washington

Kendee Yamaguchi, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

The following teams from South Seattle Community College:

College Public Information Office

Student Services

AANAPISI Team

Outreach Admissions and Recruitment

Diversity and Retention Programs

Foundation

Bookstore

Facilities and Auxiliary Services

TRiO/Student Success Services

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 753-6780 • TTY/TDD (360) 753-6466

*Greetings from the Governor*  
September 29, 2012

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all of those attending the *Annual Summit for Pacific Islander Resources and Education*.

This historic summit is a wonderful opportunity to bring families, educators, and community members together to exchange experiences, resources, and information. The Pacific Islander community faces many unique challenges, including lower graduation rates and fewer students obtaining a bachelor's degree when compared to the state as a whole. It is critical that we all work together to meet the needs of our learners and ensure the success of every student, from early learning to post-secondary education.

I commend the many community members and organizations involved in the Asian American & Pacific Islander Voices in Education Initiative. You may never know the full measure of your influence, which extends beyond each young person you touch and filters through families and out to the entire community, helping to shape a brighter future for us all.

Thank you all for coming, and please accept my best wishes for a rewarding event and continued success in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine O. Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

## **SPONSORS**

The 2012 First Annual Summit for Pacific Islander Resources and Education Summit (ASPIRE) is supported by a grant from the Voices in Education Initiative and through generous contributions from the following sponsors:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

South Seattle Community College

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Alaska Airlines

University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity

Washington Education Association

World Vision

Washington Karate Ballard Dojo

United Territories of Pacific Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle)

Win/Win Network

Asian Pacific Islander American Think Tank (APIATT)

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)

## **RAFFLE PRIZES**

SSCC Bookstore Package + 1 SSCC Water Bottle  
 Gift Certificate - 1 Month Lessons at Washington Karate  
 Gift Certificate - Photography by Mel Ponder  
 DVDs - Miss U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle Pageant  
 2 Movie Passes - Regal Cinemas

**GRAND PRIZE:** 2 Alaska Airlines Tickets + 2 SSCC Water Bottles

## SPEAKERS & PRESENTERS

Marni Apio	Lourdes Gutierrez	Bernard Punzalan
Ross A. Braine	Latu Huakau	Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap
Rosita Castellano	David Hunt	Sharon Tomiko Santos
Hueling Chan	Sui Ioane	Sili Savusa
Juan Carlos Chavez	Chanda Ishisaka	Vena Sele
Michael Asalemo Crawford	Michael Itti	Reidar Smith
Sheryl A. Day	Felise Kaio	Chasmon Tarimel
Vicente M. Diaz	Daniel Kaopuiki	Napun Tasi
Joel Domingo	Chris Katayama	Penieli Taumoepeau
Matt Elisara	Elias Ka'uhane	Robert Teranishi
Alejandro V. Espania	Ginger Kwan	Lina Thompson
Pollard Faaloga	Kapi'olani Laronel	Suni Tolton
Lynette Finau	Heather Minton	Alisa Torres
'Ilaise Folau	Annie Patu	Anosiasio Loleto Tuivai
Rochelle Fonoti	Betty Patu	Va'eomatoka K. Valu
Stella Gran-O'Donnell	Karen Peterson	Kendee Yamaguchi

## RESOURCE TABLES & INFORMATION

API Chaya

Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) /  
Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) Program

Asian Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment (APACE)

Attorney General's Office - Consumer Protection

Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)

Evergreen State College

Fidelis Caregivers

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET)

International Community Health Services (ICHS)

Lake Washington Institute of Technology

National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI)

Northwest Association of Pacific Americans (NAPA)

PugetSound Off - YMCA

Samoan Nurses of WA (SNOW)

Seattle Police Department

Service Employees International Union Healthcare 775 NW (SEIU 775)

South Seattle Community College

United Territories Of Polynesian Islanders Alliance (U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle)

University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (UW OMA&D)

World Vision

Year Up Puget Sound

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Morning Breakout Sessions: 11AM - Noon

Navigating the Educ. System - Early Learning	Navigating the Educ. System - K12	Parent Support - Know Your Rights in School	Parent Support - Culturally-Relev. Support
(OLY 206)	(JMB A)	(JMB B)	(OLY 202)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent story - Latu Huakau</li> <li>• Alisa Torres, BSD</li> <li>• Hueiling Chan, CISC</li> <li>• Ginger Kwan, Open Doors for Multicultural Families</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent story - Anosiasio Loleto Tuivai</li> <li>• Matt Elisara, Former Asst. HS Principal</li> <li>• Lynette Finau, Marysville Public Schools</li> <li>• Annie Patu, Mt. Tahoma HS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent story – Penieli Taumoepeau</li> <li>• Joel Domingo, OEO</li> <li>• Dr. Vena Sele, U.T.O.P.I.A Seattle</li> <li>• Betty Patu, Director, Seattle Public Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bernard Punzalan, Chamorro Cultural Identity</li> <li>• Ilaise Folau, Tongan HW Center</li> <li>• Felise Kaio &amp; Pollard Faalogo</li> <li>• Reidar Smith, NAPA</li> </ul>
Facilitator: Suni Tolton	Facilitator: Lourdes Gutierrez	Facilitator: Stella Gran-O'Donnell	Facilitator: Daniel Kaopuiki
<b>Youth Breakout Session</b> (RAH 125 - Little Theater) Facilitators: Chasmon Tarimel & Michael Asalemo Crawford			

### Afternoon Breakout Sessions: 1:20PM - 2:20PM

Navigating the Educ. System - Pathways to Higher Ed.	Navigating the Educ. System - K-12	Parent/Student Support - STEM: Career Opps, Apprenticeships, Teaching
(JMB A)	(JMB B)	(OLY 202)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student story - Sui Ioane</li> <li>• Prof. Rob Teramishi, AANAPISI</li> <li>• Chanda Ishisaka, SSSC</li> <li>• Toka / Val Espana, UW OMA&amp;D</li> <li>• Heather Minton, NAPALI</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent story - Anosiasio Loleto Tuivai</li> <li>• Chris Katayama, Former HS Principal</li> <li>• Kapi'olani Laronal, NW Indian College</li> <li>• Marni Apio, DSHS</li> <li>• Rosita Castellano, GATES Alternative HS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lourdes Gutierrez, Edmonds CC</li> <li>• Karen Peterson, Fred Hutchinson</li> <li>• David Hunt, Bungie</li> <li>• Juan Carlos Chavez, NASA</li> </ul>
Facilitator: Rochelle Fonoti	Facilitator: Sili Savusa	Facilitator: Sheryl Day
<b>Youth Breakout Session</b> (RAH 125 - Little Theater) Facilitators: Chasmon Tarimel & Michael Asalemo Crawford		

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Time	Program
8:30AM-9:30AM	<b>Registration / Doors Open</b> Entertainment - Ukelele by Elias Ka'uhane Performance by Tautua (7 mins)
9:30AM	<b>Welcome (40 minutes)</b> Opening - Sili & Uncle Danny (10 mins) First Nations Welcome - Ross A. Braine, Apsaalooke Nation (5 mins) Pacific Islander Welcome - ASPIRE Planning Committee (5 mins) Gov. Gregoire Welcome - Kendee Yamaguchi (2 minutes) South Seattle Welcome - Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, VP Stdt Svcs (5 mins) PI Data - Professor Robert Teranishi (10 mins)
10:15AM	Remarks - Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos (5 minutes)
10:20AM	Keynote - Professor Vicente M. Diaz (20 minutes)
10:40AM	Break (20 minutes)
11:00AM	Morning Breakout Sessions – 11:00AM to Noon
NOON	<b>Lunch</b> Entertainment - Music by Napun Tasi Resource Fair - Olympic Hall
1:00PM	Break (20 minutes)
1:20PM	Afternoon Breakout Sessions – 1:20PM to 2:20PM
2:20PM	Break (10 minutes)
2:30PM	Students Present (25 minutes)
2:55PM	From Talking Story to Taking Action (60 minutes) Voices Initiative presentation Talking Story Report Back
3:55pm	Closing Remarks
4:00pm	Adjourn



## SPEAKER & PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

**Marni Apio** is married to Kermet Apio who was born and raised in Oahu. Kermet is ½ Native Hawaiian with a little Portagee and Chinese thrown in for good measure. Together, they have two children, 10 year old Kaiona and 7 year old Makaanakealoha. They currently reside in Mountlake Terrace, and the children attend Edmonds School District. In 1999, Marni graduated with a BA in psychology and began working with homeless families in downtown Seattle. In 2006, she went to work for DSHS Community Service Office in Belltown as a Family and Hard to Serve Social Worker in the Temporary Aid for Needy Families unit. In 2009, she went to work for Child Protective Services out of the King West Office serving families from Yesler Terrace to the Snohomish/King County line. After 9 years of commuting from Mountlake Terrace to downtown Seattle a decision was made to move to an office closer to home. Marni has been with the Child Welfare Services since July 2011 in Lynnwood, WA.



**Rosita Castellano** is of Native Alaskan (Tsimpshian/Haida – Eagle Clan), Native Hawaiian and Filipino descent. She is a proud graduate of the University of Washington '03 with a BA in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences and a Teaching Certification. Rosita grew up in the Tacoma area, immersed in a mixture of cultural communities that provided a childhood of weekends that alternated luaus, potlatches and congregations around food. She has been teaching for nine

years in different school settings ranging from private/Catholic, tribal and currently GATES Alternative high school in Parkland. Rosita's impetus for working in education is to help guarantee that all students, no matter what background or experience, receive equal and full access to the best education. Working in the alternative setting gives ample opportunity to serve that goal every day. She is a proud parent of a first grader named Cosmo and the wife of Zachary Castellano. Rosita is proud to present on the panel today with her sister, Kapi'olani Laronal.



**Hueiling Chan, MSW**, Case Management and Clinical Director has been a valued member of the Seattle Asian immigrant community for more than 30 years and has contributed her extensive skill set to supporting children, youth and families as they navigate a new world. Earning her Master of Social Work, she worked as a mental health counselor before coming to CISC in 1986. Since that time, she instituted several programs and initiatives including the Parenting

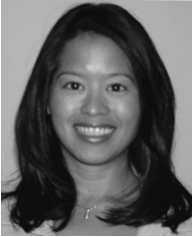
Education program in 1996 which was later expanded into a comprehensive family support program. In 2003, she added the Kaleidoscope Play and Learn groups and in 2006, she founded the Step Ahead Preschool. Her educational and cultural background has been instrumental in creating a successful, interactive bilingual/bicultural early learning program that speaks to the specific needs of Chinese-American immigrant families.



**Juan-Carlos Chavez** is currently the Student Programs Coordinator and Adviser of the Washington NASA Space Grant Consortium. His work entails coordinating NASA opportunities with statewide STEM programs. Juan Carlos received his Master's degree in Information Management from the University of Washington's Information School where he is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Information Science.



**Michael Asalemo Crawford**, Samoan, is an undergraduate student (junior) at the University of Washington studying Cultural Anthropology and American Ethnic Studies. Michael is currently on the Associated Students of the University of Washington Senate - Polynesian Student Alliance and is also the University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity Student Ambassador.



**Sheryl A. Day**, Chamorro, born and raised in Guam, is a PhD Candidate in Information Science at the University of Washington Information School. Her research interests are in technology, cultural knowledge, and information policy. She has a BFA in painting, an ATA in Computer Information Systems, and a MS in Information Management. She is also an officer in the UW Native Organization of Indigenous Scholars (NOIS) and a member of the UW Indigenous

Information Research Group. Prior to entering her PhD program, Sheryl worked 9 years for NOAA at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center as an Information Architect managing and developing databases, websites, GIS maps, graphics, and programming automation scripts. She is a board member on Karate-Ka Advanced Training Association Fund (KATA Fund), a nonprofit that raises funds to assist individuals in studying the art of traditional karate. She and her husband, Matt, own and operate the Washington Karate in Seattle.



**Vicente M. Diaz**, Associate Professor, American Indian Studies and Anthropology, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Vicente M. Diaz is Pohnpeian and Filipino who was born and raised in Guam. He is Associate Professor of American Indian Studies and Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since January 2012. Before that, Diaz helped build Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Michigan from 2001 to 2011, and taught Pacific

History and Micronesian Studies at the University of Guam from 1992-2000. Diaz is the former Historian for the Guam Political Status Education Coordinating Commission, which produced indigenous- (Chamorro-) oriented history textbooks for the island's public school system. He also served as the Coordi-

nator of the Micronesian Seafaring Society, a regional association of outrigger sailing canoe builders and navigators from across the Micronesian island region, and founded the Guam Traditional Seafarers society under the mentorship of master navigators from Polowat atoll in the Central Carolines. Trained in critical theory and Pacific area studies, Diaz is best known as a founder of Native Pacific cultural and historical studies, an interdisciplinary field forged in relation to cultural work and indigenous movements for decolonization, self-determination, and sovereignty. Among his major publications and productions are *Repositioning the Missionary: Rewriting the Histories of Colonialism, Native Catholicism, and Indigeneity in Guam*. (University of Hawai'i Press, 2010) and *Sacred Vessels: Navigating Tradition and Identity in Micronesia* (29 mins video recording, 1997). He also has published in major national and international journals and anthologies. His latest research project involves combining Advanced Visualization Technologies (3D, Virtual and Augmented Reality) and traditional voyaging technology and knowledge. Diaz is an elected Council Member of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, and a member of the Editorial Boards of *AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* (Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, Auckland University), the book series *Critical Issues in Indigenous Studies*, *Arizona Press Series*, and numerous other journals in Pacific and Asian-Pacific Studies. Diaz is the ninth of ten children of the late Judge Ramon V. Diaz and Josephina Dela Concepcion Diaz from Dededo, Guam. He is married to Dr. Christine Taitano DeLisle of Yigo, Guam, and they have three daughters and one granddaughter.



Dr. Joel Domingo

**Joel L. Domingo**, Ed. D. Originally from the Philippines, Dr. Domingo is a bi-cultural, bi-lingual Education Advocacy Program Manager for the Office of the Education Ombudsman. Dr. Domingo brings several years of experience in educational research, educational advocacy, community development, and nonprofit management, along with a breadth of educational experience in teaching at several levels. He has focused his efforts on developing leadership capacities

within diverse communities and has done extensive research on the academic effects of School, Family, and Community Partnerships. He has served on several boards related to education in the state and conducted workshops and seminars. Dr. Domingo has a BA in psychology from University of Washington, a master's degree in theology and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University.



**Matt Elisara** Born and raised in American Samoa as one of 12 children to Rev. Pita Elisara and Ma Hunkin Elisara, Matt left home to attend college and play football. He has a Bachelors of Science from Washington State University and a Masters of Educational Administration from Whitworth University. His first job was as a professional football player in the NFL and USFL. He coached college and high

school football and was a high school science teacher, middle school science & math teacher and high school and middle school assistant principal. He spent 18 rewarding years working with students of varied learning abilities and from all walks of life and worked with parents, teachers, counselors, school and district administrators, janitors, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, tutors, community organizations and businesses. "It sure does take a whole village to raise and educate a child." Matt currently works as a Regional Sales Manager/Professional Development Trainer for a textbook publishing company and is in the process of becoming a small business owner. He is married to his wife Cheryl and has two sons, Travis and Cameron.



**Alejandro Valdez Espania** is Executive Director of Counseling Services: UW OMA&D. He has a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington and an M.A. in Education from University of Phoenix, Honolulu, HI. Val has served and counseled many Pacific Islander students at the University of Washington for over 7 years and has been one of their biggest supporters and advocates over that stretch of time. He is father to two handsome boys and a devoted

husband to his wonderful wife Denise.



**Pollard Fa'alogo**, from Nu'u of Salei'Moa, Samoa, migrated here with his family in the early 90's to pursue a western education. He graduated from Lincoln Elementary, Jason Lee Middle School, Lincoln High School, and Edmonds Community College. Pollard is a Street Advocate for the If Project, a non-profit that asks incarcerated youth and adults, "If there was something that could be said or done to change the path that led you to prison/jail, what would it be?"



**Lynette S. Finau**. English Language Arts/Reading Intervention Teacher - Marysville School District  
Certified/Endorsement in English Language Arts, Humanities & History: Grade 6-12. B.A. - Interdisciplinary Studies: Culture, Language & Arts: University of Washington. M.A. - Education: Antioch University Seattle. PhD student - Leadership & Change Program: Antioch University Midwest. Dissertation interest and research on the lack of

Pacific Islander (PI) leaders, teachers as role models, contributes to the underachievement of PI students and examine common recruiting practices of teaching faculties reflective of their student populations. AANAPISI - AAPI Study Group Facilitator. Intern Faculty Antioch University Seattle - M.A. Center for Creative Change/College of Education.



**'Ilaise Puloka Folau.** Adamant about giving children better opportunities to succeed in their education, 'Ilaise helped to establish a Tutoring Program at her church at First Tongan United Methodist Church, Highland Park, Seattle. She now coordinates the program for elementary, middle school and high school levels. Born and raised in Tonga, her parents moved the family here to Seattle in search of college education for the children. 'Ilaise graduated from Azusa Pacific

University, California with BSc in Accounting, and later received BA in Bible Studies from Multnomah Seminary, Oregon. A leader in the Tongan Community and a small business owner since 1993, she is a mother of a 3rd and 4th grader in the Highline School District.



**Rochelle Tuitagava'a Fonoti** is a diasporic Samoan and was born in Auckland, New Zealand; raised in American Samoa and Independent Samoa and is now based in the United States. She received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University—Hawai'i; two master's degrees from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa and the University of Washington; and is currently in the last stage of completing her dissertation work as a Ph.D candidate in Sociocultural

Anthropology at the University of Washington. Fonoti is the Pacific Islander Cultural Specialist for the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution Grant at South Seattle Community College where she enjoys working with Pacific Islander students.



**Stella Gran-O'Donnell,** MSW, MPH is a second generation Filipina American born in Honolulu, Hawaii and raised in Seattle, WA. Stella has over fifteen years experience as a consultant, public health professional, educator, and community advocate partnering with community-, faith-based agencies, organizations, local clinics, tribes and schools on federal and local initiatives. Stella is committed to working with diverse, communities of color, including Asians, Pacific

Islanders, refugees and immigrants to address social, behavioral, health and mental health inequities.



**Lourdes Rivera Gutierrez** is a Chamorro from the island of Guam, U.S.A. She currently teaches mathematics at Edmonds Community College and Shoreline Community College. She received her B.A. in Mathematics and Secondary Education from the University of Guam and her M.S. in Mathematical Sciences from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Prior to teaching in Washington state, she taught for the Upward Bound Program at the University of Guam,

served as a judge for the National Forensic League (high school speech and



debate) competitions, was a high school Mock Trial Team coach, entertained as a professional hula dancer, and even held the title of Miss Guam Universe 1999. Known as “Professor G” by her students, Lourdes makes a conscious effort to integrate mathematically-relevant aspects of Pacific Islander culture into her math lectures so that students can get a broader perspective of the world. She believes that it is important for Pacific Islander youth to see representations of themselves and their cultures in faculty members at institutes of higher education. It is her hope that Pacific Islander students overcome the apparent achievement/opportunity gaps and become great community leaders.



**Latu Manukia Hu'akau**, proud wife and mother of 8 children, has a Bachelor of Arts in Education and History from Auckland University, is fluent in her native language (Tongan), and has a Diploma In Teaching from Auckland College Of Education from 1992. In 1997, she was awarded a Teacher Scholarship for Post Graduate study in Auckland University. She had spent years teaching High School in Tonga and New Zealand when she and her family were

vacationing and a life-threatening accident lead to their permanent stay in the US. Latu worked as a Specialist in Private Home management from 1998-2003. She is Certified in Domestic Violence, Women advocate, Life Insurance broker, Cub Scout & Boys Scout Of America, and self-employed in Affordable In-Home care. Latu is currently a full-time stay-at-home mother and a part-time student working on her teaching credentials. She is active in LDS and a strong community member involved in Youth Programs and other activities. Latu understands the importance of traditional Pacific Island culture and values that lead to education success. “It takes a village to raise a child.”



**David Hunt-Bosch** is Senior Technical Artist for Character Rigging and Animation Tools at Bungie. He leads and manages a team of four Rigging Tech Artists, teaches character animation at University of Washington, and presented an Autodesk Masterclass and a GDC talk on Modular Procedural Rigging. David's work at Bungie is deeply integrated in the process of developing new characters for interactive realtime 3D. This involves collaborating with Animation,

3DArt, Design and Cinematic departments to create rigs, animation tools and pipeline infrastructure. He got his start as a hobby stop motion animator which evolved into learning digital 3d animation and earning a Visual Art Bachelors at University of Washington. He interned as Art Department Assistant for features, commercials and music videos at Digital Domain and Storyboard Artist and for live action film productions in LA. Prior to joining Bungie, David worked for 5 years as Animator, Cinematic Artist and Combat Designer at Seattle area game studios. He specializes in: Rigging, Combat Design, Player Control, Realtime Animation, Cinematics, Tools Development, Teaching, Maya, Python, Pymel, MEL Script, 3D Studio Max, Max Script, Motion Builder, Unity3D, After FX,

Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML, XML, Lua Script, familiar with JavaScript and C#.



**Sui Makerita Ioane** was born in American Samoa and moved to Seattle in 2008. She graduated from Chief Sealth High School and is completing her Associates of Arts at South Seattle Community College (SSCC). Sui Ioane is the first in her family to attend college. She works on campus as the Pacific Islander (PI) Commissioner, facilitating events that share her PI heritage and culture. In 2011, Sui spoke to faculty at the University of Washington about the leadership work she has done at SSCC. Working in the Cultural Center at SSCC, Sui plans events that educate students from different ethnic groups about her culture. Her events include “Tracing Genealogies in Pacific Island” and “Asian and Pacific Island Heritage Month Game Day”. Sui also started a weekly study group for PI students, which is open to all who need tutoring. She volunteers in Admissions and Recruitment to help new students acclimate to college life and she volunteers every week at the American Polynesian Organization. Sui has received several scholarships and continues to help fellow students with adjusting to college life. Her goal is to become a Math instructor.



**Chanda Ishisaka** was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. She identifies as multiracial, Japanese and Mexican American. She received her Bachelor’s degree at University of California, Irvine in Criminology, Law and Society and her Masters degree in Education at Seattle University in Student Development Administration. She has worked at various higher education institutions in student services over the past five years. She currently works as an Educational Planner at South Seattle Community College under the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant program. Personally, her greatest supporter to get an education was her father who was the first in his family to graduate college. She is passionate about helping students navigate the education system and to succeed in higher education.



**Michael Itti** is a program coordinator at the Win/Win Network where he is organizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities to raise their voices to help AAPI students succeed in school. He serves on the boards of the Greater Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Asian Pacific Americans for Civic Empowerment. Michael holds a BA in business administration from the George Washington University. He enjoys photography, tennis, and hiking.



**Felise Kao Jr.**, Founder, Kagaka Lua, was born in American Samoa/Leone and grew up both in Hawaii and the US. A Navigator amongst Incarcerated/API, (Asian Pacific Islanders) within the Judicial/Department of Corrections, (DOC) System in Washington State, his work entails frequent visits in Prisons and OutReach, through Post Prison Education Program/PPEP [postprisonedu.org](http://postprisonedu.org). For more info on his work as a Nugget and Conflict Social Counselor, see [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/released](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/released).



**Daniel "Uncle Danny" Kaopuiki** was born and raised on the small island of Lana'i, Hawaii. He was the first student from Lana'i to attend the prestigious Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu. Dan joined the Hawaii National Guard in 1951 and was drafted by the US Army in 1953 where he served 3 years enlisted before retiring Major, Infantry, in 1974. Dan was among the first US Army troops to be exposed to an Atomic bomb explosion in Nevada in 1956. He also worked

24 years as Facilities Services Division Manager for King County Youth Service Center/Juvenile Detention Center. He began writing for the NW Hawaii Times newspaper under the byline title, "Uncle Danny, the Holoholo (man around town) Man." He continues to write his twice-monthly online column [www.holoholonw.com](http://www.holoholonw.com). Uncle Danny is also a professional musician and is the primary Hawaiian Islander representative on numerous Asian/Pacific Islander community service groups. He lives in Shoreline with his wife Kathy.



**Dr. Christine Katayama** Born and raised on Oahu (HI), Dr. Katayama earned her bachelor's and doctoral degrees at Seattle University, and Master of Education degree at the University of Washington. She began her career in education as a high school Language Arts teacher in Honolulu and at Puyallup High School (Washington) where she was the first Asian-Pacific Islander educator. She served as assistant principal at Federal Way High School and principal at Tye High

School (Highline). While in the position of Director of Grants Management (Highline), Dr. Katayama's accomplishments included acquisition of a Gates Grant (Aviation High School). Currently affiliated with the Division of Doctoral Studies at City University of Seattle, she has been a presenter for professional educator conferences and the Washington State Legislature on Personalized High School Academy Programs, Safe Schools Strategies for Leaders, and Cultural Competence. A member of the Board of Directors for Communities in Schools of Seattle and Scholarship Chair for Southcenter Rotary, her honors include: Washington State High School Principal of the Year (2002), Ida B. Wells/South Seattle Community College (2001); Bessie Gabbard/Phi Delta Kappa International (2001), and Honoree, Women of Color in Education (2010).





**Ginger Kwan** is the Executive Director of Open Doors for Multicultural Families, a nonprofit, grassroots family support organization. The organization's mission is to ensure multicultural families who have loved ones with disabilities have equal access to information, resources and services. Ginger is also a parent of a youth with autism, a Chinese immigrant from Taiwan, fluent in both spoken and written Taiwanese, Mandarin, and English. Ginger Kwan has 13

years of progressive working experiences in the field of developmental disabilities as a parent consultant, ethnic outreach specialist, project coordinator, program developer, cultural competence trainer and the Executive Director of ODMF. Both her professional work and personal life have been involved with serving diverse families of children with special needs. Ginger believes that with appropriate language and cultural support to refugee and immigrant parents who have limited English proficiency, they will be empowered to make informed decisions and be strong advocates for their children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



**Kapiolani A. Laronal** is currently an Extended Site Coordinator for the Northwest Indian College at the Nisqually Tribe in the South Puget Sound region. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at the University of Washington (UW) and Master's degree in Higher Education at the University of Michigan in 2007. While at UW, She conducted undergraduate research at the University of Auckland, New Zealand looking at education attainment at New Zealand

Maori Language schools. She has served on selection committees for the Gates Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Jeff & Susan Brotman Diversity Award (UW), and the ASUW Pacific Islander Student Commissioner (UW). She has worked for pre-college programs in Tacoma, Washington (Educational Talent Search (TRiO), Honolulu, Hawaii (Kamehameha Schools- Scholars Program) and Detroit, Michigan (National Forum on Higher Education).



**Heather Minton** is Director of the National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI) Program which provides Pacific Americans with training and opportunities to prepare them to become future leaders in their communities. As President of the Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association/ Washington Region (KSAA/WR), she led several major KSAA/WR fund raising events (co-sponsored a Cazimero Brothers concert; hosted a "Hawaiian theme Seattle cruise"

for AGCA with Frank Minton; hosted a Mother's Day Fashion Show featuring Puamana Crabbe; started the NW Aloha Charity Golf Tournament). She continues to stay involved in Hawaiian community benefits. As Outreach Coordinator for The Bill & Melinda Gates Scholarship Program, she visited numerous schools speaking to students and parents to encourage Polynesian students to ap-

ply for scholarships. Heather has been executive officer of The Pacific American Foundation (PAF), a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the welfare and lives of Pacific Americans worldwide.



**Annie Lealofi Patu** has worked with youth in King and Pierce Counties for over 25 years as a teacher, mentor, tutor, and coach. She currently works as a Family Health and Leadership Teacher at Mount Tahoma High School in Tacoma. She is the mother to three daughters: Robynn, Ryann, and Bre'ah. Education is a primary value for Annie as it has opened doors to many opportunities in her life. Becoming a teacher was one of her life goals which she accomplished by graduating from Seattle Pacific University with a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences and a Certificate in Career and Technical Education. Currently, she is enrolled in the Masters in Educational Leadership program at City University and aspires to become a principal or program administrator. Annie is very proud of her Polynesian heritage and is a role model for other Polynesian students demonstrating that we can succeed in education while preserving the important aspects of our culture and using it to propel us to success.



**Betty Patu** has worked tirelessly for Seattle Public schools for the past 32 years. She has successfully directed award-winning educational programs recognized to increase graduation rates, grow the number of college-bound students and reduce gang violence. Betty Patu is responsible for having the highest number of South Pacific Islander students graduate from public school in any one year. The notoriety of her program prompted Seattle Public Schools to expand her outreach to include ALL students. Over the past two decades, Betty Patu has been honored with numerous awards, including the Wives of NBA Allstar's "Women Standing Tall" Award, Asian Pacific Women's Caucus, "Warrior in Education" Award, Patty Murray "tennis shoe" award, the Governor's Volunteer Award, the Mayor's Volunteer Award and the Big Sister "Role Model" Award. Betty Patu is on the board because she believes in the safety of all our children, treating all children with respect, and making sure that each one of them are provided an equitable and quality education. She believes the District needs to focus more on community partnership and parent involvement as it will bring about the positive change needed to evolve in our global market.



**Karen Peterson, Ph.D.**, is the Scientific Ombudsman and Director of the Office of Scientific Career Development at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (FHCRC) in Seattle, Washington. She is the author of the Nature Guide to Life Science Careers and is a former member of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council for the National Post-doctoral Association (NPA). At the FHCRC, Dr. Peterson is

the Advisor to the Student-Postdoc Advisory Committee and a member of the Diversity Council and Research Ethics Education Committee. In addition, she is a Member of the Board of Trustees at Giddens School in Seattle. Dr. Peterson received a B.A. in Genetics from UC Berkeley and a Ph.D. in Experimental Medicine from McGill University. She was a postdoctoral fellow conducting research at the FHCRC before making a career transition into administration.



**Bernard T. Punzalan**, founder and principal collaborator of the Chamorro Roots Genealogy Project, is the fourth of eight children born to Eustaquio Anderson Punzalan (Familian Che’/Pansi) and Rosita Leon Guerrero Cruz (Familian Matias/Jai/Mafongfong) of Tamuning. Bernard, his wife, the former Josephine Marie Guerrero Manibusan (Familian Robot/Le’le) and his three sons (Brandon, Bryant and Bernard II) reside in Spanaway. He was one of the first and youngest

members of the 1st and 2nd Guam Youth Congress, representing Tamuning and graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Guam with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and a Masters in Public Administration from Bellevue University, NE. He served over 20 years in the US Army Reserves, US Army Active Duty, and Guam Army National Guard and worked at the Guam Historic Preservation Office (where his genealogy interest began) and Guam Economic Development Authority. Bernard served as a Grants and Contracts Manager with The Geneva Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of military medicine through R&D. He worked in the Department of the Army as a Grants Manager at the Madigan Healthcare System, Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He currently manages medical research grants and Cooperative R&D Agreements for the Army’s Western Regional Medical Command. He is a contributing author to Guampedia.com, a comprehensive online encyclopedic resource about the history, culture and contemporary issues of Guam.



**Rosie-Rimando-Chareunsap**, Ed.D. Vice President for Student Services, South Seattle Community College.

Rosie currently serves as the Vice President for Student Services at South Seattle Community College, where she has built her career over the past 12 years. Prior to this position, Rosie served in several other roles, including TRiO, Outreach and Admissions, and a federal grant that targeted Asian American and Pacific Islander students. Rosie works in

education because of her passion for creating access to populations underserved in higher ed, and because she loves the diversity of cultures at South. Rosie is a proud Cougar, with her bachelors and doctoral degrees from Washington State University, and is also a new mom with a beautiful 8-month old baby boy, and a supportive and loving partner, Michael.



**Sharon Tomiko Santos.** A community activist for more than 30 years, Sharon Tomiko Santos was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1998. Santos chairs the Education committee and serves on the Education Appropriations & Oversight committee as well as the Community and Economic Development & Housing committee. She also serves appointments to the Washington State Investment Board and to the Washington State Education Opportunity

Gap Accountability and Oversight committee. Her key policy interests include civil rights, women's rights, economic and environmental justice, affordable housing, and quality public education. A graduate of the Evergreen State College and of Northeastern University, Santos has worked in the banking industry, on staff to local public elected officials, and in senior management positions for non-profit organizations. She resides with her husband, Bob, in the Rainier Beach neighborhood (Seattle) located in one of the nation's most diverse zip code areas.



**Sili Savusa** is Executive Director of the White Center CDA. A long time community and education advocate, Sili served as a Highline School Board Director from 2008-2011, founded the first Samoan/Pacific Islander Parent Teacher Student Association in the nation in 2002, and currently serves on the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee for the State to address education issues impacting Pacific Islander students and their families.

Sili lives in White Center with her husband and three children.



**Talitiga Dr. Vena Sele** is a U.S. National from Masefau, American Samoa. She received her bachelor's degree from Truman University, Kirksville, Missouri; her master's degree from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa; and her doctorate from the Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Sele worked for the American Samoa Community College for 36 years and retired in 2006. In addition to developing curricula for Teachers of English as a Second Language in American

Samoa, Sele has also published *Memoirs of a Samoan Catholic*, and *Fa'afafine*. Sele also established *Sosaiete o Fa'afafine I Amerika Samoa (SOFIA)*, first fa'afafine organization in American Samoa and currently serves as a founding board member for U.T.O.P.I.A. Seattle.



**Reidar Smith** graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. After five years on active duty, Reidar opted to pursue a civilian career because by then he was a family man with a young daughter to raise. Reidar put his Engineering degree to work as a Boeing employee in 1962 where he remained until his retirement

in 1995. Reidar continued his military career in the US Army Reserves, retiring as a Colonel after 30 years of service. Reidar is a multi-task oriented guy who is working on at least six different projects at this time. His primary focus is on improving the health, the wealth and the education status of all Pacific Islanders with particular emphasis towards working with families. Among his current projects, Reidar helped create a NAPA “emergency scholarship” program for students at Seattle University and the U of Washington that can provide quick, short term financial aid for those who might otherwise have to leave school. Reidar is leading a project in Washington State to identify and collect data on Pacific Islander/Hawaiian students and separate them from being grouped with American Asians. Reidar’s hottest project at this time is working with the Hana Group in Honolulu, a Native Hawaiian group that is creating jobs, especially high tech, for Hawaiians.



**Chasmon Tarimel**, Palauan (Belau), is an undergraduate student (senior) at the University of Washington studying American Ethnic Studies. He is currently the Associated Students of the University of Washington Pacific Islander Student Commission (ASUW-PISC) Director. Chasmon has also served as University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity Student Ambassador Lead (2010-2012) and is a Gates Millennium Scholar.

**Penieli Taumoepeau** joined the Seattle Center Amusement and Recreation Attendants after nearly four years at LINCARE. He works part time and his highest priorities are helping with his five children’s education, homework, various activities at school, sports and community events. He is active in a variety of civic and cultural organizations including with the Tongan Community. Outside of professional interests, he bakes and cooks gourmet Tongan traditional dishes. Penieli lives in Federal Way with his family.



**Robert Teranishi** Associate Professor of Higher Education, New York University; Principal Investigator, National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education. Robert Teranishi is associate professor of higher education at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development at New York University. He is also co-director for the Institute for Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings, a faculty affiliate with the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy, and a board member for the Coalition for Asian American Children and Families. Teranishi’s primary research interest revolves around the study of racial inequality and the stratification of college opportunities. His work related to college access, affordability, and degree attainment has been influential to federal, state, and institution policy. He has a new book published by Teachers College Press titled, *Asians in the Ivory Tower: Dilemmas of Racial Inequality in American*



Higher Education. Teranishi is the recipient of the 2010 Martin Luther King, Jr. Faculty Award from NYU and was named one of the nation's top "up-and-coming" leaders by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. He was also recently appointed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to serve on the U.S. Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission. Prior to his position at New York University, Teranishi was a National Institute for Mental Health postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute. He received his B.A. from the University of California Santa Cruz in Sociology and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California Los Angeles in Higher Education and Organizational Change.



**Lina Thompson** serves as the Community and Youth Engagement Director for World Vision – a humanitarian agency committed to the well-being of vulnerable children. She has 25 years of community and youth development leadership experience and has a particular passion to see young people engaged in community transformation processes. She holds a BA degree from Washington State University and a Masters of Divinity degree from Fuller Theological Seminary.

In addition to her work with World Vision, Lina serves as the Associate Pastor for Lake Burien Presbyterian Church. Her family moved to the White Center Community from American Samoa in the late 1950's. Lina still lives in White Center and most recently is helping to support the efforts of Our Future Matters, a newly formed adult and student-led Pacific Islander initiative committed to addressing education advocacy and reform on behalf of PI Students.



**Suni Tolton** has worked in social services for 15 years and is currently a senior grants and contracts specialist for the Seattle Human Services Department. She studied sociology and criminology at the University of Utah and received a Master of Social Work from the University of Washington. She is interested in acculturation, health, and immigrant and refugee issues. Her ethnicity is Samoan and Chinese.



**Alisa V. Torres**, Central Coordinator in the Bellevue Public Schools District, is responsible for providing overall management of the Early Learning facilities and operations which includes supervision of center staff and children, communication with families, coordination of staff schedules and program activities, assuring that all district and state policies and requirements are monitored and maintained. She has a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Early Childhood and Family

Studies from University of Washington. Her studies included Interventions for Families of Children with Disabilities, Social Policy & Organization Related to Early Childhood, Social Cultural Aspects of Communication, Survey of Infant

and Children at Risk, Child Observation and Assessments, Planning Age Appropriate and Culturally Relevant Curriculum, Anti-Bias Learning Environments & Activities for Children; Supporting Young Children's Physical & Cognitive Development; Guiding & Supporting Young Children's Social & Emotional Development. Personal Note: A wife of 16 years of marriage and a mother of two boys in the Highline School District, at Seahurst Elementary.



**Loleto Tuivai** has a B.A. in English and Geography from University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. She worked in the WA State Dept of Corrections as a Community Corrections Officer, was Deputy Principal for Tonga National Form 7, and was Chair of Geography at Tonga High School. Loleto was born and raised in Lapaha, Tonga as one of 10 kids. Educated in Suva, Fiji. Worked as educator in Tongan K-12 system for 10 years before migrating to the US with her son

in 1997. After helping her son navigate the US education system and securing their US permanent residence, she now serves as a Community Corrections Officer for WA State Dept. of Corrections.



**Va'eomatoka "Toka" K. Valu**, Tongan, is the Pacific Islander Recruitment Coordinator for University of Washington Admissions & Outreach. He worked in Merchandise & Marketing Mgt. for Gap Inc. and was Corrections Counselor for Second Chance Inc. He has a B.A. in Sociology with a Minor in Diversity from University of Washington. Toka was born and raised in Tongatapu, Tonga. He migrated to Washington in 1997, navigated the US education system with only

the help of his mother, and now serves as the UW's Pacific Islander Recruitment Coordinator.



**Kendee A. Yamaguchi**, Executive Director, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA). Yamaguchi was a director in the Office of Management and Administration at the White House. Prior to her appointment to the CAPAA, she worked in the Office of Public Liaison on the signing of the executive order establishing the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. She has experience working as a television executive and a staff

member in the Legislature. More recently, she worked as an attorney in private practice. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and public communications with a minor in international affairs from American University. Yamaguchi also earned a juris doctorate from the Seattle University School of Law.

## FIRST NATIONS WELCOME



**Ross A. Braine** is a member of the Apsaalooke Nation. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry Management from the University of Washington College of Forest Resources. Ross is currently Administrative Coordinator for the University of Washington Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMA&D), Educational Talent Search Program, and serves as the Tribal Liaison.

## MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT



**Elias Ka'uhane** is an ethnic Native Hawaiian who grew up on Oahu in Hawaii and is a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu. He is a successful real estate agent in Seattle and a very popular Hawaiian music entertainer playing at various venues throughout the Northern area of Seattle/King County. Elias and his wife Lisa (another Hawaiian Islander) reside in the Richmond Beach, WA area.



**Napun Tasi** You can take us off the island, but you can't take the island out of us. The band Napun Tasi brings their Island roots and culture to the mainland through music. The Chamorro words Napun Tasi translate to ocean currents or ocean waves. Like the movement of the ocean, the band's goal is to take its listeners to different places and different times, musically. Its members are seasoned musicians from the Island of Guam. Each member has diverse musical

influences but the one common bond that binds them together are the island songs they have heard and have admired when they were children. Formed in the Pacific Northwest in 2007, Napun Tasi covers timeless Island favorites but with a modern twist. They also bring goodtimes with their Rock, Pop, Reggae selections and originals. For 5 years, Napun Tasi has played local venues as well as big stages. If you are looking to add Island to your party, look no further and look up Napun Tasi for any occasion. Napun Tasi is Chris Smith, Gavin Dalisay, Richard Dadufalza, Doug and Crystal Taitague, and Jody Benevente.

**Tautua** is made up of Asian Pacific students from various Pierce County and Federal Way high schools. These students became interested in Samoan Culture through the making of the Samoa Cultural Day on June 30, 2012 and were organized and mobilized by Vincent and Darius Vaielua of the Northwest Leadership Foundation in Tacoma. Since then the group has gained many Pacific Islander mentors and coaches guiding these young people in their future careers and education goals. Tautua parents are actively involved and the group is supported by local organizations in Pierce, Thurston, and South King Counties.



# Campus Map

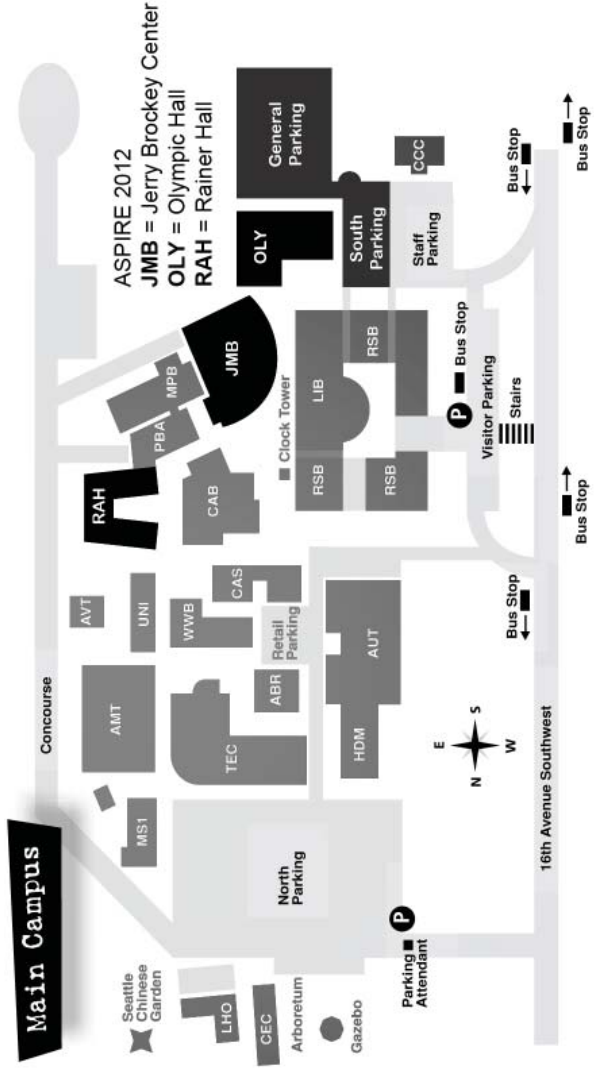


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