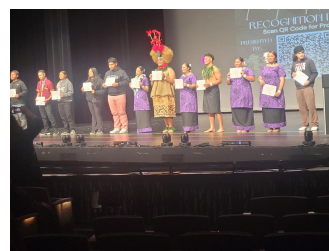




NATIONAL PACIFIC ISLANDER EDUCATION NETWORK

"Uniting the resources of the village to strengthen families, the community and to promote educational excellence." 501.c.3 Nonprofit Organization



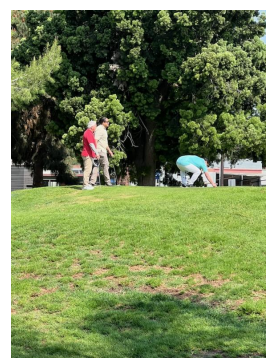
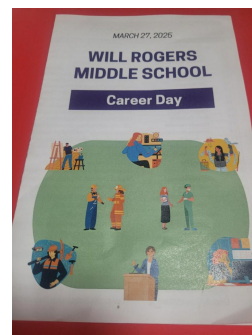
AANHPI Heritage Day and Graduation Recognition

NPIEN members participated in the Pacific Islander Recognition Night at Hayward High School, the Hayward Unified School District on May 12th. Dr. Thompson was the keynote speaker and we saw student dance performances from Hayward High School's Polynesian Club and the Chabot College Nesians Unite. Educator Kristy Prasad was recognized, and students were honored in the areas of athletics, academics, plus 8th Graders and Seniors. Congratulations to Elijah Segal and Paulina Fifita, graduating seniors, and Club advisor Alex Niutoa and emcee Showtime AJ for all you do! The Long Beach Unified School District held its Pacific Islander Recognition Day on May 17th at Lakewood High School, and Cabrillo High School, Jordan High School and Poly High School participated.



Falanai Ala Guest Speaker and Mentoring Programs Continues

We have visited many schools and students at Morse High School, Will Rogers Middle School, Lawndale School District, CA, Salt Lake Community College in Utah, the University of Utah, Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA (Three times!), St. Anthony Padua School, Hayward High School, Cal State University Los Angeles, Del Amo Elementary School and Vladovic Harbor Teacher Preparation Academy, over 1,000 students!



12th Annual Golf Tournament at Recreation Park, Long Beach,

CA, the Inland Empire, CA and Missouri

The 12th Annual Golf Tournament took place between April 1–21, 2025, in Missouri and the Inland Empire, California, with the final round held on April 21 at 9:00 a.m. at Recreation Park in Long Beach, CA. The tournament featured teams from various regions, including the Inland Empire, Missouri, Kalani, Tini, Tau and Reggie, Teleso, TALB, and Ioane and Dale, totaling 25 golfers.

Event Highlights

- All golfers received a 2-night vacation certificate (Las Vegas or Orlando) from Charity Works and a BVIP travel membership from Travel Set Go.
- Cancun trip prizes were awarded to three golfers—one from each region (IE, Missouri, and LA).
- Gift certificates and baskets from various sponsors were distributed to teams and individuals.
- A special Luau Luncheon followed the final game at the Green Field Churrascaria Brazilian Buffet, featuring a full salad bar and 10–12 grilled meat selections.

Sponsors & Supporters

The event was made possible through the generous support of numerous major, tee-sign, and prize sponsors. Key contributors included Dr. Siona Motufau, Henry Chang CPA, Pacific Islander Health Partnership, Travel Set Go, TALB, and many others. Several prize sponsors also supported us with items such as restaurant gift cards, entertainment tickets, and themed gift baskets.

Looking Ahead

These same sponsors will also support:

- The Miniature Golf Tournament at Golf N Stuff on August 8, 2025
- The 24th Annual Education Conference at Morse High School in San Diego on October 24–25, 2025

The tournament was not only a celebration of golf but also a community-building event filled with fun, food, and generous prizes!

Island Grad Ceremony 2025: Honoring Achievement and Cultural Heritage

Island Grad its held annual Island Grad Ceremony on May 3, 2025. Ninety graduates are not only acknowledged for their academic accomplishments but also for their connection to their heritage.



30 Days Left: Christina Diaz Scholars, Attendance, Educator, Counselor, and Community Awards 2025 Deadline is June 13, 2025



NPIEN is also happy to continue its tradition of honoring students, educators, and community members who have made significant contributions to the Pacific Islander community. The Christina Diaz Scholars, Attendance, Educator, Counselor, and Community Awards 2025 recognize excellence in academics, leadership, and service. The Christina Diaz Student Scholar Awards celebrate Pacific Islander students in grades 6-12 who demonstrate academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to their communities. Named in memory of Christina Diaz, a longtime NPIEN supporter, this award honors students nominated by their teachers or counselors for maintaining a minimum 2.5 GPA, improving in academics or attendance, participating in extracurricular activities, or showing leadership in school, church, or community organizations. Each honoree will get a medallion, plaque, and proclamations from their respective legislators, recognizing their outstanding efforts. Nominations will open soon via Google Form! <https://www.npien.com/resources/npien-awards>



Information about Immigration from Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the California Department of Education

Refer to this website for more information on your rights and protections under the US Constitution. ajsocal.org/immigration

Schools are safe havens <https://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/safehavens.asp>

Keep Ice out of Schools <https://stopaapihate.org/keep-ice-out-of-schools/>

From the Los Angeles County Office of Education <https://www.lacoe.edu/services/student-support/immigrant-relations>

Red Card/Immigration Preparation Tool Kit if ICE visits you <https://ajsocal.org/immigration/#toolkit>



Lesona Ukelele Class on May 20th! Ohana Night on June 3rd!

The Aloha Ukulele Ensemble provided its Lesona Ukulele Class on May 20th at 6:00 P.M. We had 4 musicians and 15 in the audience. Mahalo Event Staff Member Alex. The next Ohana Night Concert will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 3rd. Bring your instruments or we can loan you one, Come early to enjoy Onolicious food at Ohana Hawaiian BBQ, 5316 Clark Ave. in Lakewood, CA.



L.A. ISLAND RADIO and SCHOOL TALK STORY

LA Island Radio is an NPIEN partner led by radio personality David Brown "Mylay." Listen to LA Island Radio at <https://www.laislandradio.com> NPIEN Members attended the Pacific Islander Foundation fundraiser at Venue Bleu in Westminster, CA to support LA Island Radio.

Ukulele_dad/School Talk Story with Dr. T is on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. School Talk Story with Dr. T discusses NPIEN events and activities and features guests from the world of Education. Watch on Twitch https://twitch.tv/ukulele_dad at 12:00 p.m. It will also be streamed to Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in and YouTube.



Public Health Encourages Measles Vaccine

The LA County Department of Public Health is encouraging residents to get their measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, if needed, due to the increase in measles cases from those who traveled. As summer rolls around, it's expected that more travel may arise; therefore it's important to be protected. As of May 6th, there have been 4 confirmed measles cases in LA County, so it is highly encouraged for residents to review their immunization records, stay up-to-date on their vaccinations, and contact their health care provider if they experience any symptoms. For those who are uninsured or underinsured, please call 2-1-1 or click [here](#) for a list of clinics offering free or low-cost immunizations.

Community Health Stations with Lifesaving Products

The LA County Department of Public Health launched 51 community health stations across the county and will continue to deploy a total of 100 health stations in the next few months. These community health stations have free life saving products easily accessible to residents. The stations have COVID-19 test kits, naloxone, fentanyl test strip kits, and condoms. There is a short anonymous survey at these stations; however, that is completely voluntary and is not needed to get the products. They are merely to collect demographic information. Community health stations can be found in this [map](#).

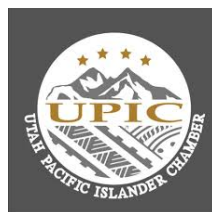
Salmonella Outbreak linked to a Local Restaurant

San Diego County public health officials are looking into a salmonella outbreak linked to Aladdin Mediterranean Café in Clairemont. Fourteen confirmed and probable cases have been identified linked to this outbreak, as the individuals reported getting sick from eating at that Café either April 25th or 26th. The Café voluntarily closed in support of allowing health officials to investigate the situation. If it is determined that there is no more risk, they will be allowed to re-open back up.

We Can Do This!! COVID Vaccines, Measles, Avian Flu

Visit these two websites for additional information

<https://wecandothis.hhs.gov/>
<https://www.pacificislanderhealth.org/>



Announcements

- **Happy Birthday to** Dennis Pagenkopp, Dr. Samara Suafoa, Vivian Hansen, Dr. Gary Widdison, Eva Shaw!
- All new members and renewing members eligible for a scholarship from Grand Canyon University (GCU)! <https://www.npien.com/home/join-npien> Contact Jaylin Pedicord or Kara Kahler for information on GCU. 1-800-800-9776 ext. 2427522 jaylin.pedicord@gcu.edu kara.kahler@gcu.edu
 - **New Members:** Conner Harr, Fran Fomai, PISAP, Maya Walker, Yolanda Owens.
- At the UPIC Teacher Awards the following teachers were recognized. Auro Sosi-West Jordan High School, Lori Ann Gray-BYU, Thomas Gasu-Cyprus HS, Haviar Hafoka, Shawnee Smith, Risha Taliauli, Noelani Franklin, Irene Lolofie
- Please write to NPIEN Member Deepak Charan, #BW0425, C309, #42U P.O. Box 3535 Norco, CA 92860. He needs encouragement. Contact us for more details at npien@npien.com
- **Bi-Monthly SoCal PICRT Meeting** We discussed creating an advocacy agenda, and NPIEN representatives discussed how to develop relationships with legislators plus education issues to advocate for: safe haven

schools and school safety. Let us know if you'd like to join us on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. PST.

- **Utah Pacific Islander Chamber of Commerce:** Dr. Thompson was the keynote at the Chamber's dinner in Salt Lake City on 4/4/25. Eight teachers were recognized plus Emeline Toalepai, retired teacher from Compton Unified School District.
- NPIEN will be presenting at the July 15th **Summer Camp for students** sponsored by Musical Theatre West!
- **Safe Schools Conference Coming to Anaheim July 9-11, 2025. You must register quickly** <https://safeschoolsconference.com/>

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National Pacific Islander Education Network | NPIEN | npien@npien.com |
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National Pacific Islander Education Network (NPIEN) | 4425 Pixie Ave. | Lakewood, CA
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