



For Immediate Release: May 4, 2010

Contact: Dr. Yung-Chen Lu Tel: 614 805-4283; E-mail: drluyc@gmail.com
Cora Munoz, PhD E-mail: professormunoz@yahoo.com
Michael Byun Tel : 330-535-3263, ext. 233; E-mail michael.byun@asiainc-ohio.org

OAAPI Holds First-Ever Legislative Day At Ohio Statehouse

COLUMBUS – Asian American civic leaders and community members from across the state, led by a coalition of organization, groups and associations, will hold the first ever Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander (OAAPI) Legislative Day at the Ohio Statehouse on June 8, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Statehouse Atrium, 1 Capitol Square.

An older legal Asian immigrant couple are completely left out of the social safety net after the husband develops a terminal illness.

An recent male refugee with poor English innocently agrees to buy alcohol for high school students. He is caught, and his application for U.S. citizenship put in great jeopardy.

A troubled, young Asian student with poor English struggles with mental illness. He falters in school, until his parents find a graduate student who speaks the boy's native language to help him.

These stories underscore a few of the major issues – civil rights, health, economic development and cultural arts and education – that Asian American faith and civic leaders, community members, young and old, will bring before legislators in an effort to connect their communities directly to elected officials.

Kiran Ahuja, the executive director for the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, has been invited to give the keynote speech. State Sen. Ray Miller (D-Columbus) as well as other key state leaders will also attend the event.

A coalition of Asian Americans, representing civic leaders from Columbus, Cleveland, Dayton, Akron, Toledo and Cincinnati, formed in 2002 to educate Ohio's residents and elected officials about the people, beliefs and concerns that make up the Asian American community.

“Asian Americans are very heterogeneous, and this is an opportunity for us to inform the legislators of our state to our unique issues and concerns in areas ranging from immigration to health care,” said Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, President of the Asian Coalition.

This historic event expects to draw several hundred attendees and will showcase the tremendous contributions Asian Americans have made in the state of Ohio and inform lawmakers on the unique issues facing the Asian community.

The event will also give community leaders and event participants a chance to gain a better understanding of the legislative process. Meetings with state legislators will take place between 1:30 and 3 p.m. in the Statehouse Atrium.

Members of the OAAPI community directly affected by the four major issues part of this Legislative Day will be available for interviews. Participants who are interested in attending can visit [AAPI Legislative Day Info](#) to register. **Deadline is May 24th**.

Event endorsing organizations to date: Asian American Community Services, Asian American Council (Dayton), Asian American Youth Council of Dayton, Asian Community Alliance, Asian Festival Corporation, Asian Services In Action, Asian Students Association – Wright State University, Asian/Hispanic/Native American Center – WSU, Asian-American Community Services Council, Association of Asian Indian Women In Ohio, Bazm-E-Adab, Chinese Association of Greater Toledo, Dayton Area Korean Association, Federation of Indian Community Association, Health Care Management Network – University of Findlay, MotivAsian, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Cleveland, Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio, Philippine American Society of Central Ohio, Philippine Nurses Association of Central Ohio, Refugee Response, Salaam Cleveland, Sikh Society of Greater Dayton, Vietnamese Association of Greater Dayton, Vietnamese Buddhist Association of Greater Dayton

###