



Committee of 100

For immediate release

Study of Asian American Leadership in Higher Education Reveals Major Disparity Between Representation in Faculty and at Presidential Level

(New York—November 18, 2005) --The Committee of 100, an organization of prominent Chinese Americans, has found that while Asian Pacific Americans are represented in meaningful numbers among faculties at American universities, they hold a disproportionately small number of the presidential positions. This is the key finding of the study, the "*Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in Higher Education Report Card*," released today.

The Committee of 100 examined the ethnicity of 3896 senior administrators holding the position of president at U.S. universities in the top quartile of *U.S. News and World Report's* 2005 ranking of higher education institutions.¹ The Committee found that APAs hold 57, or 1.5%, of those positions.²

The American Council of Education, which separately studied university presidencies, found that the majority of APA presidencies and other senior positions are at community colleges, schools within the University of Hawaii system, and at smaller, for-profit, degree-granting institutions.

By way of comparison, Asian Pacific Americans constitute roughly 5% of the U.S. population. Given the fact that, according to the American Council of Education, APAs hold just over 6% of all faculty positions, or nearly 40,000 positions, the key question that emerged from the Committee of 100 research is: why do APAs represent a mere 1.5% at the presidential level?

While ACE data shows that APAs experienced the second largest increase in administrative positions, growing from 2,243 positions in 1993 to over 3,500 positions in 2001, a 57.9% gain, it remains to be seen whether this growth will continue and at which institutions.³

Commenting on the new findings, Dr. David C. Chang, Chancellor of Polytechnic University, in New York City, and a member of the Committee of 100, said: "I personally do not believe there is an outright bias in hiring APAs into senior administrative positions for most of the doctoral institutions. The problem by-and-large is that the pool is simply too small. There could be a stereotyping of what APAs are

¹ *U.S. News and World Report* 2005 Premium Online Editions of "America's Best Colleges" and "Best Graduate Schools," cf. http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php, September 2005.

² *American Council of Education ART database*, compiled August 2004, *Minorities in Higher Education*, p.98.

³ *American Council of Education ART database*, compiled August 2004, *Minorities in Higher Education*, p.98.

good at and what they are not. Yet there is no obvious way to increase that pool unless we have a larger number of department heads and research center directors who are APA. A peer network could be helpful to provide the support structure for those who want to move up the administrative ladder.”

“These findings are important and pertinent,” commented Bob Lee, Chairman of the Committee of 100. “Asian Americans represent an enormous talent pool in the United States, and that pool should be tapped. We encourage talented Asian American academicians to set their sights high. Further, we encourage top college administrators to nurture Asian American talent, and we encourage boards of these institutions to consider qualified Asian Americans for these top positions. Our report card represents a call-to-action for American universities and colleges, as well as Asian Americans in academia.”

To recognize highly accomplished Asian Americans in higher education around the Bay Area and to support their development and advancement as institutional leaders, the Asian Pacific Fund, a community foundation in the San Francisco Bay Area, will announce the launch of a higher education leadership award in honor of former Committee of 100 Governor and former University of California, Berkeley Chancellor Chang Lin Tien. The program will be unveiled at the 9th annual gala of the Asian Pacific Fund on Saturday, November 19 at the Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco. For more information: www.asianpacificfund.org

Full results of the Committee of 100 Report Card is available at www.committee100.org

Founded in 1989, the Committee of 100 is an independent, non-profit membership organization composed of Chinese American leaders in a broad range of professions. Its dual missions are (1) to encourage stronger relationship between the people of the U.S. and Greater China and (2) to encourage the full participation of Chinese Americans in all facets of American life. www.committee100.org

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Contact:
An Ping
Director, Public Relations
Tel: 212-371-6565 Cell: 917-670-5871