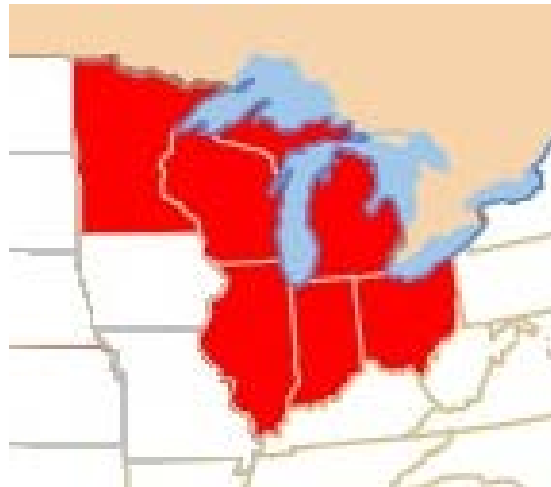


# **2012 Asian American and Pacific Islander Midwest Regional Action Summit**

In Partnership with

## **The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

**FRIDAY, July 13, 2012, 12:15 pm – 6:00 pm  
The Ohio State University**



### **Summary Report, featuring:**

- **Keynote Speaker Christopher P. Lu, Cabinet Secretary & Special Assistant to the President**
- **Five Breakout Sessions:**
  - Civil Rights
  - Jobs and Small Business Development
  - Health Care and Health Equity
  - Education
  - Housing and Home Ownership
- **A Town Hall Meeting/Listening Session**

# Acknowledgements

The 2012 Asian American and Pacific Islander Midwest Regional Action Summit was organized in partnership between The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and community-based organizations from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The lead Ohio host organizations were the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council<sup>1</sup> and the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition.<sup>2</sup> Partner organizations included the Asian-American Community Service Council, Asian Services In Action, Inc., the Midwestern Asian American Student Union, and the Sikh Coalition.

The 2012 Asian American and Pacific Islander Midwest Regional Action Summit Planning Committee greatly appreciates the generous support of the following organizations and agencies:

APIAVote Michigan APA Affairs Commission, Asian Services In Action, Midwest Asian American Students Union, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services, The Ohio State University – Wexner Medical Center, PAVE Coalition – Asian American Institute, Sikh Coalition Advocates

We also acknowledge the expertise of Kate Moraras, Senior Advisor, WHIAAPI, and the efforts of Planning Committee members, including Heather Brazil, Christine Brand, Michael Byun, Shane Carlin, Stephanie Gray Chang, Kathleen Fernicola, Roland Hwang, Ron Katsuyama, Ed Kollin, Melissa Kwon, Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, Cora Munoz, Rebecca Nelson, Linh Nguyen, Bounthanh Phommasathit, Antonio Ricafort, Manju Sankarappa, Justin Shum, Jusleen Sodiwal, Deborah Wang, Tanna Weng, and Rui Zhang. The many onsite volunteers also contributed immeasurably to the Summit's success.

**Report on the Midwest Regional Action Summit<sup>1</sup>**  
**Submitted to the White House Initiative on AAPIs**  
**September 28, 2012**

The White House Initiative on AAPIs held its first Midwest Regional Action Summit in Columbus, Ohio, on July 13, 2012. This Summit was hosted by the Ohio AAPI Advisory Council and the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition on The Ohio State University campus' Meiling Hall. Over 300 community leaders from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin were in attendance. Participants included Americans of Bhutanese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Laos, Malaysian, Mon, Nepali, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai, and Vietnamese descent.

Many Ohio state officials and White House representatives also participated in the Summit. The latter included featured speakers Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), and Christopher Lu, Cabinet Secretary, Assistant to the President, and the highest-ranking Asian American in the Obama Administration.

The lead Ohio host organizations were the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Advisory Council<sup>2</sup> and the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition.<sup>3</sup> Partner organizations included the Asian-American Community Service Council, Asian Services In Action, Inc., the Midwestern Asian American Student Union, and the Sikh Coalition.

The purpose of this Summit was to raise awareness of concerns among members of AAPI communities and to increase AAPI access and participation in federal programs, especially where there is under-utilization of services. While recent immigrants generally face barriers to accessing government programs and services, those in the Midwest may have even more difficulty. In comparison with AAPIs living on the East or West Coasts, Midwestern AAPIs are fewer in number, and they are spread across larger areas. Consequently, their presence is not as conspicuous, and government agencies may not be as proactive in reaching out to vulnerable Asian populations when implementing their programs and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Authors of this report include Ron Katsuyama, President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, Chair, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council, Deborah Wang, Communications and Policy Consultant, Asian Services in Action, Inc., and Plenary Session Scribes, Annabelle Estera, Kimo Kang, Evelyn Sugiyama, Robin Nau, and Alina Wungsirivesh. Mr. Tiong-Sin So and Deborah Wang contributed photos included in this report.

<sup>2</sup> Established in 2010, the Ohio Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Council addresses issues specific to Ohio's AAPI population, and connects AAPIs in Ohio to the State's resources. The Council focuses on four issue areas: Economic and Workforce Development; Health Issues and the Health Care System; Art, Culture, and Education; and Civil Rights and Immigration Impact.

<sup>3</sup> Established in 2006, the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition is an alliance of communities and individuals focused on the health and well-being of Ohio's Asian American population. Their mission is to eliminate social inequities that contribute to disparities in the quality of life of Ohio's Asian American Pacific Islanders through community research, education and advocacy.

The need for proactive measures that facilitate access to government programs and services is underscored by the fact that increasing numbers of Asian immigrants have settled in Midwestern states recently, and this accounts for the 47.5% increase in the Midwest AAPI population between 2000 and 2010. As can be seen from inspection of Table 1 below, this increase is comparable to the growth in the AAPI population nationally.

**Table 1: Population Increases (2000-2010) Among the Total U.S. Population, National AAPIs, and AAPI Samples in Six Midwestern States.**

<b>Group</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Percent of Population</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
<b>National Total</b>	281.42 million	308.75 million	100.0	9.7%
<b>National AAPI</b>	11.90 million	17.32 million	5.6	45.6%
<b>Midwest AAPI</b>	1.39 million	2.05 million	3.1	47.5%
<b>Illinois AAPI</b>	473,649	668,694	5.2	41.2%
<b>Indiana AAPI</b>	72,839	126,750	2.0	74.0%
<b>Michigan AAPI</b>	208,329	289,607	2.9	39.0%
<b>Minnesota AAPI</b>	162,414	247,132	4.7	52.2%
<b>Ohio AAPI</b>	159,776	238,292	2.1	49.1%
<b>Wisconsin AAPI</b>	102,768	151,513	2.7	47.4%

Source: 2010 Census Briefs, The Asian Population: 2010, C2010-BR11 Issued March 2012; available online on 9-27-2012 at <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-11.pdf>

**WHIAAPI Midwest Regional Action Summit**  
**Friday, July 13, 2012**  
**The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH**

11:30a m-	<b>Registration (Atrium)</b>
12:15- 1:00pm	<b>Opening Ceremony and Lunch (Main Auditorium)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pledge of Allegiance/Star Spangled Banner</li> <li>▪ Welcome by <b>Steven Gabbe</b>, MD, Senior VP for Health Sciences, The Ohio State University, Wexner Medical Center</li> <li>▪ Greeting by <b>Dr. Yung-Chen Lu</b>, Chair, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council</li> <li>▪ Greeting by <b>Michael Colbert</b>, Director, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services</li> </ul>
1:00 – 2:00pm	<b>White House Initiative on AAPIs Update and Keynote Address (Main Auditorium)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Kiran Ahuja</b>, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) Keynote address:</li> <li>▪ <b>Christopher Lu</b>, Assistant to the President, White House Cabinet Secretary and Co-Chair, WHIAAPI</li> </ul>
2:00- 2:30p	<b>Networking Break (Atrium)</b>
2:30- 4:00pm	<b>Plenary Sessions (Graves Hall)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Civil Rights</b> - Learn about federal efforts on improving language access, and civil rights. <i>(Moderated by Ron Katsuyama, Ph.D., Vice-Chair, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council/President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition)</i> <u>Speakers</u>      <b>Ronald Lee</b>, Trial Attorney, Department of Justice                          <b>Juliet Choi</b>, Chief of Staff &amp; Senior Advisor, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services</li> <li>▪ <b>Jobs and Small Business Development</b> - Learn how to access federal resources and how to grow your business by contracting with the U.S. government, exporting, and finding new sources of capital; and advice on networking/job search. <i>(Moderated by Khurshid Ahmad, Ph.D., President, Asian American Council, Dayton, OH)</i> <u>Speakers</u>      <b>Ann Kalayil</b> – Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region, General Services Administration                          <b>Meina Bahn</b> – Special Assistant, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration                          <b>Shane T. Carlin</b>, Board Member of Midwest Asian American Students Union (MAASU)                          <b>Julayne Lee</b>, Board of Advisors of MAASU</li> <li>▪ <b>Health Care and Health Equity</b> - Learn about federal and community resources to address health disparities and improve access to health care for AAPI communities in Ohio. <i>(Moderated by Manju Sankarappa, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition)</i> <u>Speakers</u>      <b>Mildred Hunter</b>, Minority Health Consult., Offc. of the Asst. Sec. of Hlth., Reg. V, Dept. Hlth. &amp; Human Svcs.                          <b>Kenneth Munson</b>, Regional Dir., Offc. of the Asst. Secretary, Reg. V, Dept. of Hlth &amp; Human Svcs.                          <b>Dr. Ho L. Tran</b>, President &amp; CEO, National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Education</b> - Learn about what federal agencies are doing to help represent the AAPI community fairly and promote access to secondary and higher education. Also hear from an AAPI leader who is an expert in the education field. <i>(Moderated by Rebecca Nelson, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council and OSU)</i>  <u>Speakers</u>      <b>Meena Morey Chandra</b>, Supervising Attorney, Office of Civil Rights (Cleveland), Department of Education  <b>Ajita Talwalker</b>, Special Assistant, Department of Education  <b>Donald Yu</b>, Special Advisor to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Department of Education  <b>Dr. Melissa Kwon</b>, Exec. Dir., MAASU and Research Associate, Ctr. Applied Research and Educational Improvement, Univ. of MN </li> <li> <b>Housing and Home Ownership</b>- Join a discussion about federal level initiatives that benefit or impact you as a home owner or renter; hear about regional and local housing resources and programs including fair housing services; and hear what AAPI local organizations can do to advocate on housing and community issues. <i>(Moderated by Michael Byun, Asian Services In Action)</i>  <u>Speakers</u>      <b>Lopa Kolluri</b>, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Strategy, Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  <b>Carolyn Murphy</b>, Columbus, OH, Director Fair Housing Program Ctr., HUD  <b>Thomas Leach</b>, Columbus, OH Field Office Director, HUD  <b>Lisa Hasegawa</b>, Executive Director, National CAPACD </li> </ul>
4:00 – 4:15	<b>Networking Break</b> (Atrium)
4:15 – 5:30 pm	<b>Town Hall Session with President Obama’s Administration</b> (Main Auditorium), <b>Kiran Ahuja</b> , Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) <i>(Moderated by Michael Byun, ASIA, Inc.)</i>
5:30 – 6:00 pm	<b>Debriefing, Reflections, and Closing</b> (Main Auditorium) <b>Kiran Ahuja</b> , Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), <b>Juliet Choi</b> , Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, <b>Meina Bahn</b> , Special Assistant, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration, <b>Kenneth Munson</b> , Regional Director, Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, <b>Donald Yu</b> , Special Advisor to the Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Department of Education, <b>Lopa Kolluri</b> , Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Strategy, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and <b>Ron Katsuyama</b> , Ph.D., Vice Chair, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council and President, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition

**With support from:** APIAVote Michigan APA Affairs Commission, Asian Services In Action, Midwest Asian Am. Student Union, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, Ohio AAPI Advisory Council, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Ohio Dept. of Jobs and Family Services, The Ohio State University – Wexner Medical Center, PAVE Coalition – Asian American Institute, Sikh Coalition Advocates

**Special thanks to:** Heather Brazil, Christine Brand, Michael Byun, Shane Carlin, Stephanie Gray Chang, Kathleen Fernicola, Roland Hwang, Ron Katsuyama, Ed Kollin, Melissa Kwon, Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, Cora Munoz, Rebecca Nelson, Linh Nguyen, Bounthanh Phommasathit, Antonio Ricafort, Manju Sankarappa, Justin Shum, Jusleen Sodiwal, Deborah Wang, Tanna Weng, Rui Zhang

Two **morning sessions**, a breakfast for Ohio attendees and a lunch for those traveling from other states, permitted personal discussions with Christopher Lu, Kiran Ahuja, and other Ohio and Federal agency representatives.



Breakfast meeting with Midwest AAPI community leaders and White House officials at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

AAPI leaders from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota meet with Kiran Ahuja and Chris Lu after lunch in an informal discussion session at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.



**Opening ceremonies** included greetings from The Ohio State University’s Senior VP for Health Science, Dr. Steve Gabbe. Dr. Yung-Chen Lu, Chair of the Ohio AAPI Advisory Council, then opened the Summit by underscoring the rapid growth of Ohio’s AAPI community—48% over the last decade—and urged participants: “Take the time to voice your concerns...we want to hear, from the street-level, the concerns of our Midwest AAPI communities.”



“Take the time to voice your concerns...we want to hear, from the street-level, the concerns of our Midwest AAPI communities.”

Ben Johnson of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) spoke on behalf of ODJFS Director Michael Colbert. Mindful that AAPIs face the highest long-term unemployment rate of any ethnic group in the country, Mr. Johnson directed Summit participants to the *OhioMeansJobs* initiative, a website and mobile application which allow job-seekers to upload resumes and search for positions throughout the state. Employers can also use *OhioMeansJobs* to find qualified individuals for job openings.



*OhioMeansJobs*...Employers can also use *OhioMeansJobs* to find qualified individuals for job openings.

In her **Report on the White House Initiative on AAPIs**, Ms. Ahuja stated that President Obama wanted to ensure that Asian Americans, as the nation’s fastest-growing minority group, had access to all the services the federal government had to offer. She emphasized the need to combat the “model minority” stereotype, which obscures serious challenges faced by significant numbers of AAPIs. “Without disaggregated data, we miss significant health disparities in our community,” said Ms. Ahuja. She added that more than half of the AAPI student population is in community colleges, and that 25% of AAPI households in Ohio have at least one family member not proficient in English. (Several Summit attendees participated through an interpreter.)



“Without disaggregated data, we miss significant health disparities in our community.”



In his **Keynote Address**, Mr. Chris Lu affirmed that, “The Obama Administration wants to be your partner in helping to maximize the potential of the Asian American community.” He highlighted the benefits of health care reform and small business tax cuts to AAPIs. (1.5 million small businesses in the U.S. are AAPI-owned.) He also pointed to Administration policies that keep student loan interest rates low, of particular importance to the many Asian American families who place high value on education.



“The Obama Administration wants to be your partner in helping to maximize the potential of the Asian American community.”



Main auditorium at the WHIAAPI Midwest Regional Action Summit at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.



Later in the afternoon, Summit participants broke out into **plenary sessions** on Civil Rights and Immigration Reform, Jobs and Small Business Development, Health Care and Health Equity, Education, and Housing and Home Ownership. Each plenary session featured national AAPI experts, including officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Education, and Department of Justice.



Civil Civil Rights & Immigration Reform plenary session at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

At the **Civil Rights and Immigration Reform** session, Ron Katsuyama, Ph.D., President of the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition and Chair of the Civil Rights and Immigration Impact Committee of the Ohio AAPI Advisory Council, moderated discussions about U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Health and Human Services programs pertaining to civil rights. Presenters were:

**Juliet Choi**, Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor, Office for Civil Rights, Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Ronald H. Lee**, Trial Attorney, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

Questions and comments included how redress of immigration-related discrimination in the workplace can be obtained and how communities can respond to hate crimes and bias-related incidents. Recommendations made by participants in this session include:

- Develop policies that provide safeguards against racial profiling
- Adhere to Federal guidelines regarding the reporting of possible hate crimes and bias-related incident

- Monitor racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and gender bias in the criminal justice system, including disparities in stopping, detaining, arresting, indicting, sentencing, and paroling of AAPIs and other residents of color
- Provide guidelines for bias-related-incidents and hate crimes associated with social media communications



Education plenary session at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

At the **Education** session, Rebecca Nelson, Senior Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Life at The Ohio State University, guided conversations on the prevention of discrimination, harassment, and bullying in schools. Presenters were:

**Meena Chandra**, Supervising Attorney, Office of Civil Rights (Cleveland), Department of Education

**Melissa Kwon**, Ph.D., Executive Director, Midwest Asian American Student Union

**Ajita Talwalker**, Dept. of Education

**Donald Yu**, Special Advisor to the Secretary, Dept. of Education - Office of the Secretary

Participants also discussed the need for cultural competency and disaggregated data. Attendees left with a greater awareness of strategies for institutional change to support student learning. Recommendations made by participants in this session include:

- It is crucial for the Department of Education to provide help and set guidelines in dealing with discrimination issues, including bullying and harassment. Periodic compliance reviews are also necessary
- Disaggregating demographic data can help identify communities whose youth are not achieving success, which would be overlooked using aggregated data
- Although cultural competency requirement/trainings could not be required by the federal agencies, explore ways that the federal agencies can institutionalize cultural competency and, in particular, bring diversity classes to schools for both students and teachers
- Given the widespread budget cuts to school systems, it is increasingly important that Asian leaders be aware of funding opportunities on the national level. Create avenues of communication (e.g., with libraries, school administrators, etc.) so that the average community organizer becomes aware of resources available for support of educational programs
- Develop funding and resources to retain low-income, first-generation AAPI students



Health plenary at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

At the **Health Care and Health Equity** session, Manju Sankarrapa, Executive Director of the Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, moderated discussions about the immediate and future benefits of the Affordable Care Act, the need to increase access to culturally competent health care, and the need for disaggregated health data. Presenters were:

**Mildred Hunter**, Office of the Assistant Secretary Health, Region V, Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Kenneth Munson**, Regional Director, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Health and Human Services

**Ho Tran, M.D.**, President & CEO, National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians

Recommendations made by participants in this session include:

- Develop programs to improve the cultural competency of service providers
- Ensure provision of interpreters for patients with limited English proficiency
- Increase awareness of the various health disparities among AAPIs
- Increase collection of disaggregated demographic data pertaining to medical conditions, needs, and access to services
- Ensure coverage of undocumented workers and others who would remain uninsured, even after full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 through expansion of Federally Qualified Health Centers that can serve patients with a sliding fee schedule
- Develop programs that will attract AAPIs physicians who will go into primary care
- Increase minorities in clinical trials
- Work with AAPI health care professionals and community organizations to ensure adequate provisions in state health insurance exchanges
- Develop programs to train Asian community health workers and Health Insurance Exchange “navigators”



Housing plenary at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

The **Housing and Home Ownership** session was moderated by Michael Byun, Executive Director of Asian Services In Action, Inc. Presenters were:

**Lisa Hasegawa**, Executive Director, National Center for Asian Pacific Islander Community Development (CAPACD)

**Lopa Kolluri**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Strategy, Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Thomas H. Leach**, Field Office Director, U.S. Housing and Urban Development, Columbus Office

Byun observed lively conversation and dialogue, especially from monolingual representatives of the Akron-area Nepali community. “Specifically, they voiced concerns about unfair treatment by landlords; for example, not receiving full refunds of security deposits upon the end of a lease and not knowing if families had recourse.” said Mr. Byun. He added, “They were thoroughly engaged when given the opportunity to slow things down to allow for interpreting.” Recommendations made by participants in this session include:

- Ensure that housing counselors serve Asian communities with high risk of home mortgage foreclosures
- Inform Asian leaders regarding Federal and state refinancing programs, especially those offered as alternatives to foreclosure—expand bilingual case management to network with HUD-approved housing counseling agencies
- Provide information, especially to recent immigrant populations, concerning housing renters rights to help provide safeguards against exploitative rental contracts and contract violations
- Create business and government partnerships to stimulate development of affordable housing in metropolitan areas
- Provide means for local study and enforcement of existing fair housing laws and banking laws, including realtor steering, insurance and mortgage redlining, and fraudulent or predatory lending
- HUD field officers should work with AAPI leaders to help meet housing needs of Bhutanese and other (e.g., Somali) populations
- Promote opportunities for AAPI-serving community based organizations to receive HUD Technical Assistance through the ONE CPD program

The **Jobs and Small Business Development** session was moderated by Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, President of the Asian American Council, Dayton, OH. Presenters were:

**Meina Banh**, Special Assistant, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, Small Business Administration

**Shane Carlin**, Board of Advisors, Midwest Asian American Students Union

**Ann Kalayil**, Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region, General Services Administration

**Julayne Lee**, Board of Advisors, Midwest Asian American Students Union

Discussions focused upon federal resources available to small business owners, the importance of networking, and specific strategies to enhance employee selection.



Jobs & Small Business Development plenary at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Recommendations made by participants in this session include:

- Share information regarding market economic assistance programs offered through federal agencies to AAPI communities in language understood by members of those communities and done in collaboration with leaders of those communities
- Support and assistance programs for Midwest's AAPI communities must address the varied needs of the different AAPI ethnic communities
- Outreach initiatives of federal agencies should include increasing the awareness of minority business assistance programs within the AAPI communities and should promote participation by members of those communities
- Comprehensive evaluation procedures should be implemented to gauge the participation of members of various AAPI communities in minority business assistance programs, particularly in populations where need is greatest, and to determine the effectiveness of the various types of programs offered
- Trade missions to Asian countries and other initiatives that foster a greater understanding of the Midwest's infrastructure and its resources among Asian Business and government leaders should be promoted and encouraged, with particular emphasis upon correcting existing misperceptions of the Midwest regions
- Ensure fair access to business contracts and job opportunities and develop policies to encourage and sustain local inclusion programs





AAPI leaders from across six Midwestern states meet Chris Lu, Kiran Ahuja, and representatives from Federal and state agencies.



Participants voice their concerns during the Town Hall Session.

During the subsequent Summit **Town Hall Session**, participants offered suggestions, made comments, and posed questions related to plenary session discussions. One high school student spoke about how she and her classmates had created a diversity awareness class elective at their school and made diversity training mandatory for their teachers. Another powerful story came from a representative of the Mon community in Akron, OH, who described how a factory worker's death may have been related to repeated denials of requests for a work break.



AAPI leaders share concerns, discuss strategies for outreach to members of their communities, and leave with renewed vitality and commitment.



Kiran Ahuja closes the WHIAAPI Midwest Regional Action Summit by sharing her optimism for positive change and encouraging attendees to, “Send your recommendations directly to us [the White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders].”

# Follow-on Activity: Register-to-Vote Campaign



Sept. 16, 2012. [Asia Plaza](#), Cleveland, OH.

