

## Statement from the NIU Latinx Alumni Council (NIU LAC) March 31, 2021

The NIU Latinx Alumni Council would like to express our solidarity with the Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Huskie family and communities. We have seen the harm that racist nativist rhetoric can have on communities of color, and we must stand as a united front in support of one another. The recent atrocities against the AAPI community have shined a light on the rise of AAPI hate, discrimination and violence. We cannot stay silent in the wake of these attacks. Even before the pandemic, we understand that the AAPI community has suffered due to anti-Asian policies in this country. We want to remind the Latina/o/x community that now is the time to hold space for the AAPI community. We must stand together as we provide the AAPI community support, space and time to process what is happening. While we will take the lead from AAPI students, alumni and community members about what they need, we will help however we can, including educating ourselves and other non-AAPI individuals about the discrimination and harm the AAPI community continues to face.

We want our AAPI Huskies to know we are here for you to stand in the face of hate and bigotry; we choose to stand up and denounce hateful racists acts. We, the NIU Latinx Alumni Council, stand in solidarity with the Asian American Resource Center, the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the AAPI students, staff, faculty, and alumni! Together we are stronger!

- On behalf of the NIU Latinx Alumni Council Board Members

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