



CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

**TOM TORLAKSON**

STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 29, 2011

Dear High School Principals and Counselors:

I am requesting your help in disseminating to your fellow counselors, teachers, and students information about a statewide conference sponsored by the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project (APYLP), a nonprofit organization.

The APYLP reaches out to Asian and Pacific Islander youths in California to build on their understanding of what it means to be Asian Pacific Islander American students in today's culturally and ethnically diverse society. The conference offers group workshops on leadership development, cultural identity and awareness, the legislative process, and public speaking skills. Students also participate in mock legislative sessions, learn about higher education opportunities, and take part in various social activities during the conference.

Fifty junior and senior year high students will be selected for the four-day, three-night conference in Sacramento, which is scheduled to take place March 29-April 1, 2012. Through funds raised from private corporations, higher education institutions, professional organizations, and individuals, the APYLP completely covers the travel, lodging, and meal expenses for the students selected to participate in its conference.

Please disseminate this information to all interested students. The organization is especially interested in reaching students who have leadership potential, but due to language, economic, cultural or other barriers, have difficulty developing or realizing that potential. Applications must be postmarked no later than **Monday, November 14, 2011**.

The support of California educators has been instrumental in the success of the APYLP conferences over the past 21 years, and I hope you will continue to support this endeavor. For more information and application forms, please view the APYLP Web site at <http://www.apyyp.org>.

Your support for this conference is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Torlakson".

Tom Torlakson

TT:df