

BUILD 2018 Hot Topics – July 17, 2018

## **Fitting in: Hearing the Asian American Voice in Equity**

### **Why are Asian, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders missing in the conversation about racial justice and equity in the early childhood field?**

Presenters:

- Nucha Isarowong, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor, Erikson Institute
- Marsha Shigeyo Hawley, Director, Lead Learn Excel, Ounce of Prevention Fund
- Choua Vue, Senior Director of Community Impact, Illinois Action for Children
- Julia Zhu, Community Systems Policy Director, Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development
- Cindy La, Director of Education at Asian Human Services, Inc.

Asian Americans are often left out of conversations when issues of equity arise. This discussion will debate ways to engage Asian, Asian-American and Pacific Islander families to have a voice in early childhood programs. We will discuss ways that “insignificant” numbers of Asian children and families need a system that is highly inclusive, promotes equity, and includes the needs of all young children and families.

Provocative resources to review:

The State of Asian Americans in US:

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2014/04/23/87520/state-of-asianamericans-and-pacific-islanders-series/>

Reading between the Data: The Incomplete Story of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/reports/2014/03/03/85055/reading-between-the-data/>

“The Other Achievement Gap: Lessons from Asian American Success.”

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/17/04/other-achievement-gap>

“Beyond Stereotypes”

<https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/uk/16/09/beyond-stereotype>

“Lo Mein Loophole: How U.S. Immigration Law Fueled A Chinese Restaurant Boom”

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/02/22/467113401/lo-mein-loophole-how-u-s-immigration-law-fueled-a-chinese-restaurant-boom>

<https://youtu.be/5kbgRbD-JsA>