CAPAL seeks to empower Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) youth by increasing access to public service opportunities and building a strong AANHPI public service pipeline. CAPAL envisions a future with equitable AANHPI representation throughout all levels of government and public service.
OUR PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (WLP)
The 2017 WLP sought to present storytelling as a vehicle to teach and inspire change in public service. Through five weekly sessions over the summer, WLP introduces students to AANHPI storytellers in public service who can inform and inspire students’ own civic engagement. Through panel discussions and participatory activities, this free program served over 220 individuals this year.

“The fourth WLP session discussed the need for more detailed data in the AANHPI community to address the model minority myth and advocate for the different ethnic communities. Ryan Masaaki Yokota (Legacy Center Manager, Japanese American Service Committee, Professional Instructor, DePaul University) said to bring ourselves ‘out of the data into humanity and lived experiences.’ In an era where we must hold fast to facts, it is important to hold onto the memories, experiences, and people that are represented in numbers and percentages. We must reclaim our stories and ourselves.”

FARJANA ISLAM
2017 USDA FOREST SERVICE INTERN

PUBLIC SERVICE INTERNSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS
CAPAL places undergraduate and graduate students within the federal government and nonprofit sector nationally each summer. Students participate in WLP, connect with a mentor, attend cohort sessions, and collaborate on a Community Action Project (CAP) to create a product that connects people in personal and professional ways to give back to communities that are important to them.

2017 WLP TOPICS
- Advocacy in the Arts
- Know History, Know Self
- Politics and Policymakers
- Stories Behind the Data
- Storytelling in the Media

INTERN PLACEMENT PARTNERS
- The Center for the Study of Social Policy
- US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (placement funded by Google)
- USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECTS (CAP)

Community partners advise scholars and interns while they produce deliverables by the end of the summer. 2017 projects included: “Housing and Gentrification: Boston’s Chinatown” and “How Federal Education Policy Affects AANHPIs,” with their completed projects showcased at CAPAL’s Summer Closing Ceremony.

2017 Project: Hate Crime/Incident Reporting and Elderly AANHPI
This project created an awareness campaign that effectively engaged older AANHPIs to participate in hate incident reporting. Deliverables included an informational blog, sticker awareness campaign, and an actionable dissemination plan.

“I wanted to learn more about China trade and US-DPRK foreign policy. During my time with CAPAL, I was introduced to experts in these areas and learned about the US-China Beef Agreement. Also — if you’re not well versed in AANHPI issues, don’t let that deter you. I found CAPAL activities helped create dialogue, realize commonalities, and foster space to explore identity.”

VIVIAN KIM
2017 USDA AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE INTERN

PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER EXPLORATION

ROUNDTABLE SERIES
Sessions allow students and young professionals to hear from AANHPI public service leaders in an intimate and conversational setting. This year included speakers from the U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT PREPAREDNESS
Public service covers a diverse range of careers. Agency tours and informational sessions allow students to explore areas of interest. Students sharpen their professional skills through a resume writing and interview workshop, and use their newfound skills at our annual AANHPI career fair, which drew over 100 attendees. Over 230 young professionals were served by these programs.
“The Cook Inlet Beluga Whales have recently been assigned an endangered status. I monitored beluga whales and sightings, recorded activities the whales exhibited, and compared this with possible environmental disturbances, such as invasive plants. Through CAPAL I have already done mountain biking with trailers, hiking with pack rafts and paddling along a lake in search of aquatic invasives.”

RICHARD FU
2017 US FOREST SERVICE FIELD INTERN