Dear Speaker:

The Asian American Student Coalition (AASC) is a student run organization that examines and takes action on issues of diversity. Our goals are to promote racial, political, and cultural awareness within the University of Arizona and Tucson communities. We serve as a representative voice to and for the Asian American student community.

This year, we will be organizing our third Leadership Conference for Asian Pacifics (LCAP) entitled: “REVOLUTION: Experience. Innovate. Alter.” It will focus on aspects of the Asian American experience such as ‘Speaking Your Mind: Why is it So Hard?’ and ‘Feminism and Masculinity: APA Gender Roles’. Through this event, participants will have the opportunity to actively network, discuss the current issues that affect their community(ies), and promote change by utilizing their thoughts and behaviors as a spring board for cultivating diversity.

We would like to invite you, as a guest speaker, to lead a workshop at this year’s leadership conference. With your involvement, we hope to develop discussions that emphasize leadership within and promote understanding of the Asian American identity. On a separate page that follows is a listing of potential workshop themes for your consideration.

This year’s LCAP conference is scheduled for the weekend of March 4 and 5, 2006, and will be held on The University of Arizona’s campus in Tucson, Arizona. You are welcome to stay for the whole conference; however, your time and presence is only requested for the duration of the workshop you are presenting.

Thank you for your time and support. Attached to this letter is a confirmation form and a list of workshop themes, please review all the attached materials carefully. We look forward to having you as a guest speaker at this year’s conference and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

2006 LCAP Speaker Committee
Yes, I will be able to speak at the conference about:

Or, if there is a specific topic not on the list that you would like to present, please state it below:

If you do charge a fee, please state the price here ____________, or attach it to this confirmation. We would like to accommodate for you the best that we can.

If you need any other accommodations, please state them below:

Thank you for working with us, and we hope to hear from you soon! After receiving your confirmation, a follow-up letter will be sent to you with additional details.

Please respond to this by email at aasconline@yahoogroups.com

Or by mail to:

1303 East University Blvd. #20873
Tucson, AZ 85719-0521
2006 Leadership Conference for Asian Pacifics  

Tentative Workshop Themes:

1) **APAs and Religion - You Go Because You Must vs You Go Because You Want To:** There are APAs who have been raised to attend church religiously every week. There are APAs who do not identify with any religion. What actually motivates Asian Americans to associate with a religion? Does one’s heritage play an important part in choosing to be religious? The ones that do uphold their family's religion by attending church, do they choose to uphold the church’s values also?

2) **Speaking Your Mind - Why Is It So Hard?:** There are many reasons why APAs may seem more quiet than everyone. Their culture reminds them to “not rock the boat,” they do not have much in common with anyone else, or they simply do not have much to say. Yet everyone has a voice, and figuring out how to put thoughts into words may be important in executing the actions.

3) **APAs in Stereotypical Jobs - Working in the Family Business or Service Sectors:** What challenges many APAs from branching out into professions that they actually do want to pursue? Are pressures from family preventing them from seeking out their own path, yet why do they not speak out against these obstacles and revolutionize their choices?

4) **APAs in Non-Conventional Majors - i.e. non-science, math, engineering, medical, etc.:** Meet a panel of students found in majors that are not known for attracting APAs. Find out how and why they chose the major they are currently in and ask them about any hardships they have encountered in doing so. Interact with those who bravely decided to defy the stereotype.

5) **Native Hawaiian Nationalism:** Since the 1850s overthrow of the Hawaiian government, Hawaiian natives have tried to gain sovereignty from the US national government. Hear from local Hawaiian supporters who are passionate about this issue and want their story heard.

6) **Asian Pacifics in UA Athletics:** Meet a panel of APAs involved with athletics at the UA, including athletes, coaches, and those that work behind the scenes. Learn about their practice schedules, what they do for fun, and what cultural traditions they have been able to incorporate into their lifestyle.

7) **APAs in the Media - How We Support and/or Resist the Stereotypes:** There are many stereotypes that surround APAs in movies, television, newspapers, etc. Are these stereotypes considered positive or negative, and why are they perceived as this? What can be done now to change these stereotypes, or do we even want them to be changed?
8) **Dynamics of the Family & The Generational Gap in 2006**: How have things changed since the late 80’s and 90’s. Have families assimilated? Immigration of new families has slowed, and the size of the American-born Asian families is growing dramatically. What's the difference between an Asian, and an Asian American? How does this affect parent-child relationships, and do they recognize the change? Do parents see how their kids are growing up differently? How can they help? What can the kids do to ease the frustration they may have within the family? What outreach is being done in the community.

9) **LBGT APAs**: There is a large stigma surrounding the LBGT community in Asian families. What creates this stigma and what can be done to get rid of it? Not only are more APAs coming out everyday, they find it hardest to come out to those they love the most - their family. How can the LBGT APAs look to the community for support and help in this up and coming issue?

10) **Feminism and Masculinity - Gender Roles**: What roles do women and men play in the Asian American community, and how has that evolved since the older generations of APAs? How does this issue differ from the American culture and those cultures found in Asian countries? What media techniques portray these gender roles? Do Asian Americans born and raised in the US try to defy the stereotypical gender roles and in what ways?

11) **“Everyone Has a Story to Tell”**: Have an interesting story that you would like to share? Did you survive a civil war in your native country? Have you faced numerous episodes of racism, in which your motto became “What doesn’t kill me, only makes me stronger”? What struggles did you overcome to get to where you are today? Though you may not know it, your own personal story is empowering to many people, and we invite you to share it.

12) **Open Forums - What Are Your Thoughts on ...?**: Come to an open discussion and personally share your stories on issues ranging from family, relationships, health, and how you are revolutionizing your world.

13) **APA Studies at the U of A**: The fight for the APA studies program at the U of A continues, although slowly. Established at ASU, how can we learn from them, and is there a need for this? Who wants it, why, and will you take classes if they offered it? Would you take the classes purely because you have an interest? Will non-Asians have an interest at all? Is there community support?

14) **HAPA (Half Asian Pacific American)**: Do HAPAs identify with one culture more so than the other? What aspects of one culture may conflict with characteristics of another? Based on the short animation “So What Are You Anyways?” by Jeff Stearns, how one views his or her mixed culture, affects how others view the person.