Forward Leadership Program Information

Thank you for your interest in API Forward Foundation's Forward Leadership Program for undergraduate college students. The program aims to inspire, motivate and empower students to develop their leadership potential. Through three to four months of mentorship, collaboration and leadership training, we hope to instill confidence, integrity, knowledge, experience, connection and great understanding of the importance of equity practice. Our program hopes to inspire participants to lead change for Asians, Pacific Islanders and others.

This program comprises five components:
1. Leadership training
2. Pairing with mentors
3. Research and field work
4. Project presentation
5. "Pay it forward" volunteer work with a nonprofit organization

Participants of the API Forward Foundation's Forward Leadership Program must participate in all five components.

Learning outcomes:
• Navigating power relationships and dynamics
• Conflict resolution skills
• Negotiation skills
• Leading across cultures
• Planning and delivering effective presentations
• Identifying and mitigating unconscious bias
• Fostering an inclusive climate at work or school
• Becoming a strong and compassionate leader
• Interpersonal communication skills
• Time management skills

Timeline:

October 23, 2020	Application due
October 30 - November 13, 2020	Interviews
Late-November	Final applicants notified
December 2020 - April 2021	Leadership program
April 24, 2021	Final presentation
May 4, 2021	Award ceremony

API > Forward

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Expectations:
Applicants who are selected are expected to participate in all components of the program, including 4 virtual workshops (starting in December 2020), a day-long leadership conference in January, and monthly meeting with a mentor. They will also work in teams on a project arranged by API Forward in partnership with a government agency, community or non-profit organization. The project will focus on issues related to diversity, inclusion and/or equity.

The final presentations will be judged by a team of community members. Upon completion, participants will be financially rewarded for their work and join a growing network of API change-makers in the Pacific Northwest. Graduates of this program will be required to volunteer for at least 20 hours of services at a nonprofit within 18 months after completion of this program. API Forward will assist in matching the student with a nonprofit organization.

All applicants will be required to:
- Attend 4 virtual online workshops (2 hours each) beginning in December 2020.
- Attend a day-long leadership conference in January 2021.
- Agree to participate in a mentorship program.
- Dedicate time to research, planning and implementing the assigned project.
- Be available for the final presentation in late April.
- Attend the API Forward fundraising event in May.
- Commit to a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer work at a local nonprofit organization.

Ideal candidate:
- Self identifies as an API community member.
- Willing and open to learn about diversity, inclusion and equity in API community.
- Strong desire to become a leader in the API community.
- Currently enrolled at least part time (with six credits or more) in a higher education institution in Oregon or southwest Washington.
- Be at least 18 years old by December 10, 2020.

Benefits of this program:
- Opportunity to engage in diversity, inclusion and equity work in the Oregon and Washington.
- Opportunity to participate in leadership training.
- Opportunity to build relationship with local government, private industries, and/or communities that are not offered in regular classes.
- Opportunity to gain hands-on knowledge of community-based equity work.
- Award stipend ($500-$1,500 per applicant) toward educational cost.

*Disclosure: Applicants must disclose any personal relationships with an active board member.

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Forward Leadership Program Application Form

Eligibility

API Forward's mission is to develop, through education, civically-engaged, socially-responsible Asian American and Pacific Island leaders and professionals.

To be considered, applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements:
- Be at least 18 years old by December 10, 2020.
- Enrolled in a college or university in Oregon or southwest Washington.
- Enrolled in at least half time (6 or more credit hours).
- Current student must have a minimum of 2.0 cumulative GPA.
- Preference given to self-identified Asian Pacific American Islanders.
- Must be a U.S. resident or a citizen (excluding students with a F-1, J-1 andother international student visa types).

Checklist for a completed application packet*:
- ☐ Complete application form
- ☐ Complete essays
- ☐ Unofficial transcript
- ☐ Resume (include extracurricular activities, work history, volunteer/service experience, awards and honors)
- ☐ Two letters of recommendation addressing your academic ability, leadership potential and other qualities

Please submit completed application by **October 23, 2020**, 11:59 p.m. PST to **application@APIForward.org**

*Incomplete application or late submission will be automatically disqualified.

Questions: Contact communications@APIForward.org

Application deadline: October 23, 2020, 11:59 p.m. PST

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Forward Leadership Program Application Form

Applicant information

First name	Middle name	Last name	Preferred pronoun

Address	City	State	ZIP code

Email address		Phone number	State of residence

Name of college/university	Year in school	Major	Cummulative GPA

Ethnicity/race	Language(s) spoken & level of fluency	1st generation college student? ☐ Yes ☐ No	How did you hear about this program?

Are you related to a member of the API Forward board of directors?

☐ Yes. Please list name and relationship: _____

☐ No

I certify that information provided in this application packet is accurate. I provide permission for API Forward to share and distribute my information as needed to members of the Selection Committee and leaders of respective partnerships.

Student signature _____   Date _____

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Forward Leadership Program Application Form

Essay questions

In a separate document, respond to each of the following essay questions. Be sure to include your name and topic in the header. (maximum of 500 words per question):

1. What is your educational and career goals?

2. Of the following topics, pick <u>one</u> to answer:
    • What are you passionate about?
    • What is your vision for a better society?
    • What are current issues that you care about that impact the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community?
    • What is your vision for advancing the voices of the API community?

3. Of the following topics, pick <u>one</u> to answer:
    • What does diversity, equity and inclusion mean to you?
    • What is your past or current experience(s) in regards to diversity, equity and inclusion?
    • How do you plan to promote and advance diversity, equity and inclusion in your personal life and professional life?

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