



Asian American LEAD

Youth Leadership, Empowerment, and Development

PRESS RELEASE

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Asian American LEAD Appoints Akil Vohra as Executive Director

(Washington, DC) – The Board of Directors of [Asian American LEAD \(AALEAD\)](#) has appointed Akil Vohra as its new Executive Director. Mr. Vohra will work with the Board to advance education and mentorship support for low-income and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia region.

“I’m extremely excited to be leading AALEAD during this critical time period,” said Mr. Vohra. “It’s now essential, more than ever, to ensure we are assisting our most marginalized communities, and working together to advance equity for all. I’m especially moved by working with existing partners and expanding our networks to facilitate real change in our communities.”

Nina Un, AALEAD Board Co-Chair stated, “Mr. Vohra’s many years of work in the AAPI community, nonprofit leadership experience, and advocacy for AAPI youth make him incredibly well suited for AALEAD at this pivotal time for the organization and our community.”

Most recently, Mr. Vohra served as Director of Strategic Initiatives at the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, where he was responsible for coordinating the office’s work to advance opportunities for AAPI communities across the federal government, with community organizations, and in the private sector. At the Initiative, he focused on a range of areas including education, bullying and harassment, civil rights, the Census, and data collection.

In his work at Muslim Advocates, Mr. Vohra led grassroots organizing and advocacy efforts to change federal policy impacting the civil rights of Muslim Americans. Through his extensive volunteer and board service, including with the President’s Advisory Commission on AAPIs, he has honed invaluable knowledge of and appreciation for the power of strong management, governance, and leadership. Having spent the good part of the last twenty years in the DC area, he currently calls Takoma Park, MD, home with his family.

“Mr. Vohra’s commitment to racial equity, positive youth development, the social sector, and the DC region are deeply aligned with AALEAD’s work to provide resources and support to youth who are traditionally denied equitable access to personal, educational, and employment success,” noted AALEAD Board Co-Chair Sharon Eliatamby. As Executive Director, he will work with Board, staff, youth, families, and partners to carry AALEAD into a third decade of organizational growth and evolution, ensuring that AAPI youth have the tools and opportunities they deserve to define themselves and their futures.

The AALEAD Board and staff thank Advisory Council and former Board members Smita Dutta and Ban Tran, who co-chaired the search committee, and Siu Cheung, who stepped off the Board in February to serve as interim Executive Director. Ms. Cheung’s dedicated leadership through this transition put AALEAD on strong footing, and she will continue to lead as she rejoins the Board. “It has been such an honor to serve as our interim this year,” said Ms. Cheung, “and I look forward to partnering with Mr. Vohra and the Board to ensure AALEAD’s ongoing success.”

AALEAD supports low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities through after school, summer, and mentoring programs.

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