

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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API EQUALITY AND CAA TO DEVELOP RESOURCES FOR CHINESE AND API FAMILIES WITH GAY CHILDREN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY'S FAMILY ACCEPTANCE PROJECT

SAN FRANCISCO, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008—API Equality and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) today announced their partnership with the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University's (SFSU) César E. Chávez Institute to develop tools and resources for Chinese and Asian and Pacific Islander (API) families to learn how to accept and love their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) children. This partnership further extends CAA's commitment to advocating for the interests and needs of LGBT members in the Chinese and API community.

"Many Chinese families have a difficult time accepting their LGBT children. This groundbreaking partnership between API Equality and CAA and the Family Acceptance Project will ensure that these families have the tools and resources to accept and love their LGBT children," said Andy Wong, Director of API Equality. "Just as we have worked to promote marriage equality and fair treatment of LGBT people, API Equality and CAA look forward to promoting family acceptance of LGBT youth in our Chinese and API communities."

"Our collaboration is based on critical new research on how family acceptance and rejection play a significant role in the health, mental health, and well-being of LGBT young people," said Dr. Caitlin Ryan, Director of the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University (SFSU). "The most important lesson we have learned from our research is that families can help their LGBT children and give them the best chance to succeed by accepting their children for who they are. Even a little acceptance makes an important difference in reducing their LGBT children's risk for suicide, drug abuse, HIV and other health and mental health problems."

"As a Chinese American mother of a gay child, I love my child unconditionally," said Sandra Lee Fewer, Director of Parent Organizing at Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth. "I want my child to grow up knowing that he is loved regardless of whether he is gay or straight, and I believe that all children deserve nothing less than the full love and support of their families and community. I am so excited to know that there will soon be resources for Chinese and other families to learn how to accept and love their LGBT children. I know that other Chinese families want to support their LGBT children, but just don't know how. These new resources will make a critical difference for our community."

As part of this new partnership, API Equality and CAA want to talk with Chinese and API families with LGBT children to ask their advice on developing education materials in Chinese and English for families and providers in the community. Families who would like to learn about this new research to help their LGBT children lead healthy and successful lives, and provide advice for these new family education materials should contact Amos Lim at alim@caasf.org or (415) 274-6750. Families will receive a stipend for their participation and time.

The Family Acceptance Project (FAP) is a community research, intervention and training initiative to study the impact of family acceptance and rejection on the health, mental health and well-being of lesbian, gay and bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Results will be used to help families provide support for LGBT youth. Website: <http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/>

API Equality is committed to working in our Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities for equal marriage rights, fair treatment, and overall acceptance of LGBT people. Working in collaboration with our local partners, API Equality-LA and API Equality-SF, we engage in public education, community organizing, and legal and legislative advocacy to achieve our goals. Website: www.apiequality.org

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