

A Nation of Diversity and Equality

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“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” These are the legendary words from the United States’ Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776. More than 200 years later, the meaning of these words has not changed. The United States is still a land that values “certain unalienable Rights,” among which includes freedom, equality, and diversity. The United States may not promote equality of results because that is unfair, but it strongly supports equality of opportunity.

Promoting equal opportunity is vitally important because the United States is a diverse nation. At the birth of our nation the United States was small and composed of mainly European descendants. Now, the United States is one of the most populous countries in the world and composed of over thousands of ethnicities. Many inhabitants of the United States may not have been born here and may not die here, but they will definitely receive equal opportunity here. In the United States, people are allowed to live their lives freely despite race, age, gender, and beliefs. Our diverse people receive privileged rights which include the opportunity to gain an education, find a job, and pursue personal goals. Equal opportunity and cultural diversity are qualities that made the United States into the technologically savvy, progressively environmental, and internationally powerful nation that it is currently.

Henceforth, our nation of diversity should be embraced and encouraged. One way to maintain our progress is to promote cultural diversity in the workforce. For Asian Americans in particular, cultural diversity in the Federal government can be improved by increasing funds and encouraging outreach programs. Currently, Asian Americans employees are still a minority in

the Federal government because, as students, they may not have considered working for the Federal government. They may have considered being a chef, but did not realize that there are also chefs hired to work in the Federal departments. Some students may have considered being a nurse, but did not realize that the Federal government also hired nurses. This lack of knowledge, however, can be changed. The Federal government simply needs to increase advertisements in educational institutions.

More government departments should send representatives to local high schools and colleges to conduct a career fair once or twice a year. During this career fair, the representatives should be equipped to answer the students' questions, explain the job description and benefits, and hand out informational pamphlets. Furthermore, there should be a job shadowing program. It would be similar to an internship experience. However, instead of lasting one season, it would only last one or two days. The shadowing program would give students an opportunity to experience a real work day without the immense commitment that an internship requires. Aside from increasing interaction between the student and the Federal government, funds should also be increased. The government should increase grants and scholarships available to Asian American students. Hence, they can afford attending a higher education institution to work for the Federal government.

There are infinite ways to promote cultural diversity in the workplace. Increasing funds and encouraging outreach programs are only two ideas, but they alone can increase the cultural diversity for Asian Americans working in the Federal government. By embracing these two ideas and promoting equal opportunity we are living by the Declaration of Independence and truly creating a nation where "all men are created equal."