



APAPA

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association
Community Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF)
Empowering and Engaging Asian Pacific Islander Americans

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APAPA Urges Caution against Inflammatory Language Used on Foreign Students

SACRAMENTO, CA - Politico (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/08/09/politico-reports-trump-called-most-chinese-students-us-spies>) and other news media reported that President Trump, during a dinner with a number of CEO's at his New Jersey Golf Club, implied that most Chinese students in the U.S. are spies. However, another account by CNN was considerably milder, noting that during the dinner "Trump expressed concern that some foreign students were acting as foreign agents, particularly from China, according to one of the attendees."

APAPA strongly agrees with Jill Welch, Association of International Educators' (NAFSA) deputy executive director for public policy, who made the following statement about what the president reportedly said.

"Generations of foreign policy leaders agree that international students and scholars are one of America's greatest foreign policy assets. Blanket generalizations about students from any country will undoubtedly make international students think twice before choosing the United States as their destination. If students, particularly from strategic regions around the world, no longer come here, America will lose the ability to build relationships with future leaders abroad and strengthen our own national security."

APAPA is an American organization. We do not condone foreign spies operating in our country regardless of their origin. Nevertheless we are gravely concerned such alleged statement by President Trump can be incendiary and may harm the perception and reputation of American students of Chinese descent, especially if they major in STEM disciplines.

The recent erroneous charges, such as those of Sherry Chen and Professor Xiaoxing Xi, of spying may become even more prevalent, creating havoc for innocent and loyal Chinese American citizens contributing to our country. APAPA urges caution against such inflammatory language which can lead to xenophobia and is detrimental to the well being of honest and hard working citizens who happen to be of the targeted ethnicity.

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APAPA is a non-profit, non-partisan and grassroots organization. Its mission is to empower Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Americans through education, leadership and active participation in civic and public affairs.