



**ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS Salem-Keizer Public Schools is committed to reflecting the concerns and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities; and

WHEREAS Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a significant role in America's history, with their enormous contributions to science, arts, industry, government, and commerce; and

WHEREAS the term "Asian/Pacific" encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia, which includes New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands in addition to Micronesia, which includes Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia and finally Polynesia, which includes New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island; and

WHEREAS traders from the Asia-Pacific region reached North America as early as the 16th century, but the first significant wave of immigration began during the late 1800s; and

WHEREAS citizens of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau can live and work in the U.S. without visas and work permits because of a 1986 law called the Compact of Free Association, or COFA; and

WHEREAS a third of the Marshall Islands' population has moved to the U.S., with the population growing exponentially in the Salem-Keizer area; and

WHEREAS five percent of Salem-Keizer students identify as Asian or Pacific Islander; and

WHEREAS 314 Salem-Keizer students identify as Marshallese and 310 students identify as Chuukese; and

WHEREAS the achievement of Asian and Pacific Islander students is improving, with graduation rates on the increase and dropout rates on the decrease; and

WHEREAS Salem-Keizer Public Schools is dedicated to providing resources to directly support continued achievement growth for Asian American and Pacific Islander students; and

WHEREAS only 2.36 percent of Salem-Keizer employees identify as Asian or Pacific Islander – 33 identify as Hawaiian and Pacific Islander and 93 identify as Asian; and

WHEREAS Salem-Keizer is committed to expanding employment opportunities for advancement of historically underserved populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Salem-Keizer School District Board of Directors proclaims May 2021 to be **ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH** and urges our community to join together in celebrating our students and staff of Asian and Pacific Island heritage and in making this period of rededication to the principles of justice and equality for all people.

Satya Chandragiri, Chairperson, Board of Directors
Salem-Keizer Public Schools

May 11, 2021
Date