



## Lunar New Year Celebration Meet & Greet

To kick off the Spring 2025 semester, PRISE welcomed students and staff to a festive Lunar New Year meet and greet, filled with culture, community, and fun. The celebration began with a vibrant lion dance performance by Eastern Ways Martial Arts, energizing the room as guests enjoyed pizza and a warm welcome that highlighted Lunar New Year traditions from across Asia—including Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese cultures.

As part of a fun icebreaker, participants shared their new year wishes and exchanged greetings in various languages—from “Xīnnián kuàilè” to “Chúc Mừng Năm Mới.” A brief cultural presentation followed, exploring the rich history and customs of Lunar New Year, including red envelopes, family feasts, ancestor worship, and traditional attire.

To bring the celebration to life, attendees decorated their own red envelopes with symbols of luck and prosperity. The event wrapped up with lots of laughter and fun while playing games inspired by *The Squid Game*.

## Student Conferences

P.R.I.S.E. hosted three conferences for the learning community during the spring semester. The first conference, Rise Against the Tides: Today's Students, Tomorrow's Leaders was held at Delta College in Stockton. Students attended workshops focused on leadership and advocacy. The A.P.I.D.A. College Day took place at Sacramento State and centered on transfer awareness, college access, and career preparation. The third conference held in Oakland was the A.P.A.H.E. annual conference. In this conference, students learned about cultivating resilience and hope, while facing adversity.







## National AANHPI Heritage Celebration Month

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (A.A.N.H.P.I.) Heritage Celebration Month is celebrated nationally during the month of May however, due to final exams in May, P.R.I.S.E. dedicated April 24, 2025 to celebrate the AANHPI communities and the Cambodian, Lao, and Thai New Years. The AANHPI Heritage honors the rich history, culture, and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the United States. The celebration was officially designated in 1992. In addition, the Cambodian New Year (Choul Chnam Thmey), Lao New Year (Pi Mai Lao), and Thai New Year (Songkran) are celebrated during the month of April because all three cultures are based on the Buddhist solar calendar and emphasize purification, renewal, and community.

The celebration featured Juliana Wong (aka Prof Juuj) from NYC, who facilitated engaging activities for students to reflect on their own cultural experiences in connection to their educational journey. Pacific Islanders United from Sacramento State and Future Lao Generation performed traditional dances. A.A.N.H.P.I. merchandise vendors and food trucks also came to support our students.

## Study Halls

This spring semester, PRISE hosted six successful Study Halls. The consistent provision of food helped create a welcoming and energizing atmosphere students looked forward to. The combination of dedicated study time, peer interaction, and food resonated with students, making each Study Hall a productive and enjoyable experience. Building on this success, PRISE will host more Study Halls, complete with delicious food during Fall 2025.

