

My Hopes for the Future

As an Asian growing up in America, I have many hopes for the future. One hope I have is to see more Asians represented in the state or federal legislature. I believe that Asians need more representation in the government to effect positive changes for our culture. Recently, my eighth grade class visited the state capitol and met with Assemblyman Rob Bonta. He is the first Filipino-American elected to the California legislature. He received a law degree from Yale University. He is a model of a well-educated individual who uses his knowledge and position to make positive changes. In 2013, a law was passed that would require California public schools to teach students the impact of Filipino-Americans on the farm labor movement. Because of him, students now have the opportunity to learn more about the contributions of Filipinos to this movement. Assemblyman Bonta is the person who was responsible for this important law. He is a great Asian role model who used his status to make a positive change for Asians. After meeting with him, I was inspired to think of a career in public service. What better way to serve and educate my community and people by becoming a political or social activist?

Another hope I have for the near future is to see a change in the cost of college education. Being Asian, my parents stress the importance of education, the value of a college degree, and the choices it gives one in life. They tell me that knowledge is power. As such, my goal is to go to college and earn a degree. My parents work hard, and they have a plan to finance the cost of college for my brother and myself. However, even with advanced planning, paying for our college education will still place a financial hardship on them. The high cost of a college education is one problem that needs to be solved. An affordable, quality education should be accessible to anyone who has the desire to attend college. What is the solution? It is not an easy problem to solve. However, there are a couple of actions we can implement as citizens to attempt to find a solution. We can push our state legislatures to fund tuition freezes. We can also protest the high cost of housing on and near college campuses. There are other options, but these seem to be the most practical ones. Parents should not have to worry about how they will pay for their children's college education. They should just be proud that they have children who want to enrich their lives by earning a college degree.

It would be a dream come true to one day have an Asian elected as the president of the United States. It would be icing on the cake to have him or her make affordable, quality education something that every child could take advantage of. Who knows, one day that person may be me.