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Asian American Heritage Month celebration at Leon County Schools

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One of the many advantages of living in Tallahassee is the diversity of people one sees every day at work, school and outdoors. This, of course, is not a coincidence. Even though Tallahassee is relatively a small city, it attracts people from all over the state and country due to the presence of state government, universities and business centers. Asians and Asian Pacific Americans represent one segment of this diversity. Even though they represent 2.4 percent of the total population of the Sunshine State, according to 2010 Census, they are the fastest growing minority group. This growth can be seen in our schools, colleges, business and professional services.

Asian Coalition of Tallahassee (ACT | www.asian-tlh.org) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit umbrella organization with over dozen member associations and organizations representing Asian and Asian-Pacific countries. It was established in 2004 to allow Asian and Asian-Pacific Americans to get together, showcase the talents of its members, and share their rich culture and heritage with others. ACT also wants to establish a long standing connection to the local community the Association members now call home.

Since 1978 when President Carter signed a U.S. House and Senate joint resolution declaring May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, communities throughout the U.S. have been observing it in various ways. In keeping with this tradition, ACT has been celebrating Asian American Heritage Month



for several years.

This year ACT partnered with Leon County Schools and the celebrations were held at two different middle schools on two different evenings. The first event was held at Montford Middle School Cafeteria on Thursday, May 3. The second event was held at Cobb Middle School Gymnasium on Friday, May 11. Both the events featured Asian music, dance, martial arts, skits and other performances from dozen groups. There were many opportunities to engage in hands-on activities for children and adults. Representatives from various Asian countries were there to answer questions about their culture and heritage.



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Participants wear clothing associated with different nationalities and groups for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.