USPAK Foundation
Promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans

e-letter

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USPAK EVENTS

Students master College Admission Process

Montgomery County Muslim Council **MCMF** and **USPAK** organized a day long hands on workshop for High School Students teaching them how to navigate College Admission process. Over forty students from Montgomery County, Virginia and DC participated in the workshop. Volunteers form MCMF and USPAK worked for six weeks to plan and organize the event.

The purpose of this workshop was to help Junior and Senior High School students learn about the mechanics of College Admission process. Get coaching from Professional Essay Writers on best practices for writing essays for College Applications. Finally, students and parents were provided information about available financial assistance resources.

Four current College students, Aleeza Hashmi, student at Harvard University, Sara Mahmood student at University of Maryland College Park, Nasib Hafeez at student University of Maryland at Baltimore Campus, and Taimur Chaudhry student at University of Maryland College Park, participated in a panel discussion to acquaint high school students with different steps of college admission. They covered topics like Common Application, College Selection list, Visiting Colleges, Early/Regular Acceptance decision, required GPA for College, SAT or ACT, benefits of Honors/AP class, All rounded vs pointy resume, involvement in School Clubs, Letters of Recommendation – when and where to get them, Summer Job Experience, Role of Guidance Counselor, Interviewing Process, Importance of Essay, and Financial Assistance. The panelists shared their College Admission experiences, what they did right, and what would they have done differently. The panel discussion was followed by an extended Q& A session with high school students.

Minha Kausar of "**Winning Essays**" highlighted the importance of essay in the admission process. She shared her experience as an Admission Counselor as to what College Counselors are looking for in a College Essay. She gave a list of do's and don'ts for writing g essays. She also shared examples of good and poor essays; she had students critique some of the examples.

Susan Kozlov, Financial Aid Counselor at **Montgomery College** provided detailed step by step information on how to apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (**FAFSA**). She also shared a large number of private and public scholarships, grants, and loans available for students for college.

Students completed a survey form at the conclusion of the event, students also discussed the need for such programs, and what other future programs interest them. Three future events that students showed interest in Career Guidance/Counseling, Summer Internship, and Peer Review of College essays.

USPAK UPCOMING EVENTS

Cyber Safety & Networking, November 15th, AVON, CT

High School and College Students are invited to attend a full day Youth Leadership Conference on **"Cyber Safety & Networking"** on Saturday November 15th 2014, 9:30 AM at Farmington Valley American Muslim Center, 35 Harris Street, Avon, CT. **Pre-registration is required**, no onsite registration is allowed. Registration Fee: $15 per student, or $30 for family. Light snacks will be provided. See **Conference Flyer**.

This event is organized by USPAK Foundation and Farmington Valley American Muslim Center.

At this Leadership Conference students will learn about how to successfully write for local media, and to create community interest with their writing. You will meet with Cyber Safety and Security specialists who can walk you through the best practices for cyber surfing. You will also learn about methods by which to safeguard your cyber identity. You will learn new Networking techniques that can be used at your School or College.

An interactive panel comprised of fellow students will discuss student needs, and how best to meet them with available resources.

For more information, email **ed@uspakfoundation.org** or call 202 505 4725. **More Information**

To register for the Conference use the link below

Register for Conference

NEWS

Did Asian Americans switch parties overnight? No.

 Buried in the blue and red bars of the exit poll results from Tuesday's midterm elections is an astonishing figure. Asian Americans were nearly evenly split in their voting in congressional races: 50 percent to 49 percent, with a nod to Democrats by the faintest of recordable margins. Why is this astonishing? Because just two years ago, exit polling showed that Asian Americans broke overwhelmingly in favor of the Democrats — 73 percent to 26 percent.

Such a reversal of partisan fortunes is all the more astonishing given the long-term increase in Democratic voting among Asian Americans — only 31 percent of whom voted for Bill Clinton in 1992. No wonder, then, that there already are headlines such as "**Republicans Courted Asians, and It Paid Off**."

Is this 50 percent figure believable? Exit polls, after all, are known for the occasional bad calls, sometimes with decisive and notorious effect, as in the 2000 and 2002 elections. But are exit polls especially prone to getting the Asian American vote wrong? The answer is a clear, resounding "yes."

Exit polls are not designed to produce representative samples of groups within the electorate, such as Asian Americans. **Warren Mitofsky**, the "godfather of exit polls," noted that errors in such polls "appear mostly among demographic groups that are both relatively small and those that tend to be geographically concentrated" — in other words, groups such as Asian Americans. Indeed, with regard to another such group, Latinos, the exit polls have missed the mark with some regularity. In 2004 and 2010, such polls mischaracterized the Latino vote badly (see **here**, **here** and **here**).

But are the 2014 estimates for Asian Americans similarly flawed? The sample size for Asian Americans was 304. If that is indeed the sample size, it is conspicuously small, with a margin of error that could approach 11 percent given the sampling design of the exit poll.

And if that is the correct number of interviews, Asian Americans were vastly underrepresented. According to **available** information, the total number of interviews in 2014 was either 19,441 (among precincts chosen for the national sample) or 29,581 (if over-samples in Colorado, Georgia, Iowa and North Carolina are added). This means that Asian Americans were only between 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent of the entire sample — even though the people behind the exit poll estimate that Asian Americans were actually 3 percent of all voters (see **here**).

INTERNSHIPS

Integrated Transport Research Intern
This internship will support several projects related to sustainable urban development and mobility, including analysis of public transport fleets, national transit policies and development of case studies, as well as contributing to methodology development. The intern may be asked to contribute to smaller pieces of research on other climate or transport-related projects. **APPLY**

Other Internships

Help Us Help You
USPAK is a volunteer organization working for the betterment of Pakistani Americans. Our efforts are focused on developing future leaders of our country from within our community. We also work to address issues of concern of our community, ranging from immigration, civil liberties, religious freedom, and socio-economic development of Pakistani American community.

It is through help of supporters like you that we are able carry on our vision promoting the ambitions and aspirations of Pakistani Americans. Your support today can ensure that Pakistani Americans have a place at the table, as we shape the policies on immigration, the economy and civil rights. You can help build a more vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Can we count on you to help? Can you donate $500, $250 or $150 today? **Click here** and use **Donate** button. USPAK is a 501 c3 non-profit organization; your donation qualifies for tax deduction.