



## SECRETARY OF LABOR ELAINE L. CHAO

May 1, 2005

Greetings as you gather to celebrate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Chinese American Parent-Student Council Mother's Day Event! Mothers are very special and they do so many things on a daily basis that may go unnoticed yet are critical to molding who each of us are today. Our mothers make sacrifices for us, devote themselves to improving our lives, and contribute in so many ways to helping us advance in society. There is a Chinese saying that describes the importance of our mothers in our lives: “偉大的母愛.”

The future for our community is so bright. Chinese Americans have helped to make our country economically vibrant. President George W. Bush shares our values and is deeply committed to ensuring that all Americans have equal access to opportunity. Under President Bush's leadership, there have been nearly 260 Asian Pacific American appointments to federal positions, including 38 requiring Senate confirmation. For the first time in history, the President has appointed two Asian Pacific Americans to the Cabinet. At the U.S. Department of Labor, I have appointed over 20 Asian Pacific Americans to top leadership positions, the highest number of any federal government department.

Helping our community reach its full potential continues to be among my top priorities. In October 2004, the Department of Labor hosted the second annual Opportunity Conference, designed to recognize and foster individual organizations serving the Asian Pacific and Hispanic American communities. This month, the Department will host the fourth annual Asian Pacific American Federal Career Advancement Summit to help Asian Pacific Americans acquire the skills necessary to advance within the federal government. A summer internship program was established at the Department to provide future Asian Pacific American leaders and leaders from other communities a chance to learn about our federal government.

The Department of Labor has launched a number of initiatives to assist the growing Asian Pacific American community. A \$9 million effort helps diverse urban and rural populations create, support and expand small businesses. To better serve the community, the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistic's monthly unemployment report now includes specific data on Asian Pacific Americans. In the aftermath of September 11, the Department extended \$249 million to New Yorkers in emergency aid, including a \$1 million grant dedicated to Chinatown's dislocated workers.

As America becomes more diverse, the future for Asian Pacific Americans looms even brighter. I am deeply committed to helping more Asian Pacific Americans access greater opportunities in mainstream America. I am pleased to join you in saluting the mothers of this Association on this Mother's Day for all that they do to nurture and cultivate their children to prepare them for great futures in this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. L. Chao".