

In This Issue #287

- Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley: The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War
- Additional Endorsers and Letters Invited to Oppose Revival of China Initiative
- McCarthyism and Qian Xuesen 钱学森
- "Threats to Academic Freedom and International Engagement: China and Beyond"
- APIAVote: Election Information in Your State
- News and Activities for the Communities

Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley: The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War



Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley: The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War



Kansas researcher Franklin Tao's & Hong, at Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley



Q&A of The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War



Dr. Ken Fong spoke on The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War

On October 11, 2024, [Civic Leadership Forum Silicon Valley: The U.S. vs. China: A Talent War](#) was held at Ding Ding TV studios. Over 300 people watched the livestream of the event, which covered three topics:

- Understanding the implications of losing top talent to China.
- Discovering how trade wars and talent loss affect the middle class.
- Exploring strategies for fostering collaboration and retaining talent.

The expert panel included:

- **Scott Rozelle:** A leading scholar in Chinese economics, Rozelle has recently participated in Track Two diplomacy initiatives between the U.S. and China.
- **Peter Michelson:** A renowned physicist at Stanford University, Michelson has expressed concerns about the impact of the DoJ's China Initiative on reverse brain drain.
- **Peter Zeidenberg:** A successful lawyer who has defended Americans wrongly accused of espionage-related crimes, including Kansas University Professor Franklin Tao.
- **Joel Wong:** A dedicated advocate for the Asian American Pacific Islander community and a prominent figure in U.S.-China relations.

Professor **Feng “Franklin” Tao**, and his wife **Hong** attended the event and [spoke about their ordeal](#). [Former Congressman Mike Honda](#) led off the Q&A session. Dr. **Ken Fong**, sponsor of the event, gave [closing remarks](#).

Additional Endorsers and Letters Invited to Oppose Revival of China Initiative

<p>EQ THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION</p> <p>Stanford professors oppose a return of the China Initiative</p> <p>More than 165 Stanford University professors are speaking out against efforts to revive a federal investigation of academic ties to China.</p> <p>Faculty members signed a letter to congressional leaders to “strongly oppose” legislative efforts to reinstate the China Initiative. The U.S. House has passed a measure to bring back the Trump-era inquiry, which was ended in February 2022. Lawmakers also included language directing the U.S. Department of Justice to restart the probe in a government-spending bill. Both proposals require Senate approval.</p>	<p>Letter to U.S. Congressional leaders opposing legislation that would reinstate the DoJ's "China Initiative"</p> <p>By clicking “Submit” below, I as a member of the faculty or senior staff at a US university, am endorsing the letter to the leadership of the U.S. House and Senate by faculty at Stanford University. My endorsement represents my concurrence with the letter. I understand that the list of names of those endorsing the letter may become public. The letter can be accessed here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nyyCeJi4V05nPaKARBGun9uxm181n33/view?usp=sharing</p>
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On October 9, 2024, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that more than 165 Stanford faculty members signed a letter to congressional leaders to “strongly oppose” legislative efforts to reinstate the China Initiative. The U.S. House has passed a measure to bring back the Trump-era initiative, which was ended in February 2022. Lawmakers also included language directing the U.S. Department of Justice to restart the probe in a government-spending bill. Both proposals require Senate approval.

Gisela Kusakawa, executive director of the Asian American Scholar Forum, said it was important for professors and researchers to voice their concerns because they see firsthand the importance of international collaboration — and the chilling effect of the initial federal inquiry. She encourages faculty members at other colleges to also weigh in by endorsing the Stanford letter or write their own letters. “By speaking out, these scholars can help shape policies that safeguard the academic landscape for future generations,” she said,

Steven A. Kivelson, a professor of physics who spearheaded the drafting of the Stanford letter with Professor **Peter Michelson**, said he has worked with “brilliant” graduate students,

postdocs, visiting scholars, and longtime research partners from China. “The China Initiative was significantly harmful to such collaborations, without having any clear positive implications for national-security issues,” he wrote in an email to *The Chronicle*. “There are few policy matters that seem so clear-cut to me as that the China Initiative should not be revived.”

Read the *Chronicle* report: <https://bit.ly/3U6ZD8J>. Read the Stanford faculty letter: <https://bit.ly/4dCVC2P>. Endorse the Stanford faculty letter: <https://bit.ly/4eXkWBw>.

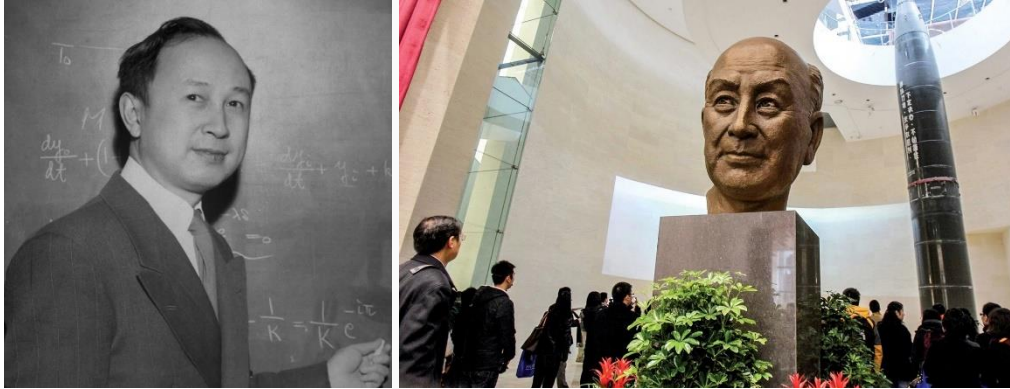


The 1990 Institute has joined the [White House](#), [CAPAC](#), [a coalition of community organizations](#), [Committee of 100](#), and [National Asian Pacific American Bar Association](#) in issuing a statement condemning the attempt to revive the China Initiative: <https://bit.ly/3U8bLpT>.

On October 13, 2024, *Forbes Breaking News* posted a video recording of a hearing by the House Oversight Committee on September 24, 2024, in which Rep. **Summer Lee** (D-PA) slammed the premise of the hearing and questioned witnesses about discrimination against the Chinese community. Watch the video: <https://bit.ly/4029aSa> (5:23)

On October 12, 2024, *Fair Observer* reported that escalating political tensions between the U.S. and China are hindering scientific collaboration and making it harder for the U.S. to attract and retain talented Chinese scholars, according to a new study co-authored by Wharton professor **Britta Glennon**. Both countries are increasingly focused on self-sufficiency in science, diverging from long-standing international collaboration trends. This shift towards nationalism, Glennon argues, may have unintended consequences for innovation. The study, titled "Building a Wall around Science," was published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Read the *Fair Observer* report: <https://bit.ly/4dKyAa7>.

McCarthyism and Qian Xuesen 钱学森



In China, **Qian Xuesen** 钱学森 is hailed as a national hero—an aerospace engineer who took China into space. Here in America, Qian’s story is a lesson about how McCarthyism and American insecurity made America less secure.

Qian Xuesen left the Republic of China in 1935 to study aerospace engineering at MIT, and he later became a professor at CalTech and co-founded NASA’s famous Jet Propulsion Laboratory. He was a welcome guest in the U.S. for more than ten years. In fact, shortly after World War II, the U.S. Government thanked him for his contribution to the war effort, including his service on the U.S. government’s Scientific Advisory Board as an Air Force lieutenant colonel. At the height of McCarthyism in 1950, the FBI accused Qian of being a communist and a threat to national security.

He felt betrayed and humiliated, and after trying unsuccessfully to clear his name. The Department of Justice placed him under house arrest and forbade him from leaving for five years from 1950-1955 until the United States finally decided to deport him. Rather than helping the United States land on the moon, the country forced Qian out, and he helped build China’s space program. Still, there is no evidence that Qian ever spied for China or was an intelligence agent when he was in America, and government officials later described his deportation as “the stupidest thing this country ever did.”

Qian’s life is recognized as globally pivotal in both Chinese and American history. The *BBC* wrote: “Qian’s life spanned almost a century. In that time China grew from an economic minnow to a superpower on Earth and in space. Qian was part of that transformation. But his story could have been a great American one too - where talent, wherever it is found, could thrive.”

Sources:

2020/10/26 *BBC*: [Qian Xuesen: The man the US deported - who then helped China into space](#)

National Museum of Nuclear Sciences and History: [Qian Xuesen](#)

Wikipedia: [Qian Xuesen](#)

Alex Liang, second year student at Harvard Law School, contributed this report.

"Threats to Academic Freedom and International Engagement: China and Beyond"



The image shows a screenshot of the Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP) website. The website has a red header with the MSP logo (a blue circle with 'MSP AMHERST' and 'NTA | NEA' around it) and the text 'Massachusetts Society of Professors' and 'The Union of Faculty and Librarians at UMass Amherst'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, About MSP, Join MSP, Contract, Work-Life Policies, Member Benefits, Campaigns, Workshops, Newsletter, and Contact. Below the navigation menu is the text '11/12 "Threats to International Engagement and Academic Freedom" with Dr. Yangyang Cheng'. To the right of the website screenshot is a portrait of Dr. Yangyang Cheng, a woman with long black hair and glasses, wearing a red and black patterned jacket.

On November 12, 2024, Massachusetts Society of Professors (MSP) at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, will host a lecture on "Threats to International Engagement and Academic Freedom," starting at 4:00 pm ET. The featured speaker is Dr. **Yangyang Cheng**, Particle Physicist and Research Scholar at Yale Law School's Paul Tsai China Center.

Across the country, faculty and students are facing impediments to international engagement, and sometimes at significant personal risk, arising from increasingly strict federal regulations. International faculty and students are especially vulnerable, as are Chinese Americans and others with ties to countries experiencing strained US relations.

At UMass Amherst, there are strong unions with the power to enforce robust contracts. The MSP event and the conversations it generates will help mobilize the UMass community to win and sustain the strongest possible protections for research and professional lives.

The event will be held at UMass Amherst Lederle Graduate Research Center A112. It will also be streamlined by Zoom at <https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/j/96950189589>. For more information, visit: <https://bit.ly/3Yn2lcH>

APIAVote: Election Information in Your State

The screenshot shows the APIAVote website interface. At the top, there are two identical navigation bars with the APIAVote logo and links for 'HOW TO VOTE', 'GET INVOLVED', 'INITIATIVES', 'POLICY & RESEARCH', 'MEDIA CENTER', and 'ABOUT'. A red button labeled 'In-Language Voter Info' is also present. Below the navigation, the main content area is split into two columns. The left column is titled 'ELECTION INFORMATION IN YOUR STATE' and contains a text block explaining that every state has different rules and a 'Select a State' dropdown menu. Below this is a map of the United States with various shades of purple. The right column is titled 'HOW TO VOTE IN MY STATE PENNSYLVANIA' and features a red map of Pennsylvania. Below this is another 'Select a State' dropdown and a section titled 'Upcoming Election Dates and Registration Deadlines'. This section highlights the 'November 5, 2024 Pennsylvania General Election' and lists several key deadlines:

- Voter Registration Deadline:** Received by October 21, 2024
- Mail-in Ballot Request Deadline:** Received by October 28, 2024 5:00PM
- Completed Mail-in Ballot Return Deadline:** Received by November 5, 2024 8:00PM
- Early Voting:** In-Person Absentee Voting: September 16 - November 5, 2024 (Contact your local official to confirm dates and locations)

November 5, 2024, is Election Day. Voters will elect the next President and Vice President of the United States. All 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives will be up for election, and 34 seats in the U.S. Senate will be contested. There will also be state and local elections, as well as ballot initiatives or referendums.

Every state has different rules for its elections. APIAVote (Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1996 that promotes civic participation and voter engagement in Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. It focuses on increasing voter registration, turnout, and advocacy to ensure AAPI voices are represented in the U.S. political process.

APIAVote has developed an online map to provide state-by-state election dates, including registration and mail-in deadlines, as well as early voting. It also provides translated mailers to over 1 million AAPI households and online in order to inform them on how, where and when to vote, in their preferred language.

To find out specific information about your state, visit: <https://bit.ly/4f2qKtB>

The screenshot shows the top portion of an NPR news article. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NPR logo, WAMU 88.5 logo, and links for 'NEWSLETTERS', 'SIGN IN', 'NPR SHOP', and 'DONATE'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with links for 'NEWS', 'CULTURE', 'MUSIC', 'PODCASTS & SHOWS', and 'SEARCH'. The main content area features the word 'POLITICS' in a small font, followed by the article title 'In an election race this close, Asian American voters have become a force' in a large, bold font. Below the title is the date and time 'OCTOBER 14, 2024 · 8:00 AM ET'.

According to *NPR* on October 14, 2024, in an election race this close, Asian American voters have become a force.

The Asian and Pacific Islander Political Alliance (APIPA) is working to mobilize AAPI voters in Pennsylvania ahead of the 2024 election, canvassing daily to support Vice President **Kamala Harris** and other endorsed candidates. AAPI voters, though a small part of the electorate in this critical swing state, have grown significantly, with their numbers increasing by 55% between 2010 and 2020. The group's efforts reflect the growing importance of the AAPI population in political engagement, particularly in tight races where their votes could be decisive.

Outreach to AAPI communities has been a challenge for both major parties, partly due to the cost and labor involved in translating voting materials. However, candidates like Harris have focused on targeted advertising and voter engagement in Asian American media, emphasizing her own immigrant background. While the **Donald Trump** campaign has done less specific outreach, they have attempted to tap into nostalgia for the economy during Trump's presidency. AAPI voters, once engaged, tend to remain politically active, and their support could prove crucial in several swing states.

In other states, like Nevada, North Carolina, and Georgia, AAPI voters are also seen as a key demographic, with advocacy groups working to build long-term political engagement. Democratic organizers have noticed a surge in South Asian volunteers and increased outreach from both parties. However, some within the AAPI community still feel politically marginalized, a challenge advocacy groups are working to address by increasing voter outreach and representation in campaigns.

Read the *NPR* report: <https://n.pr/3BTAnfO>

News and Activities for the Communities

1. APA Justice Community Calendar

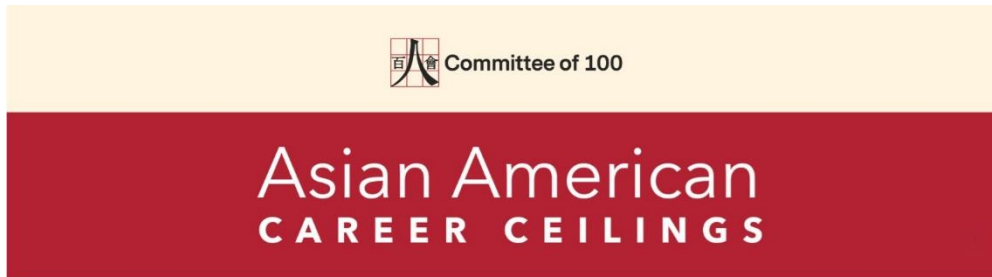


Upcoming Events:

2024/10/16 Rebuilding Trust in Science
2024/10/20 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
2024/10/22 Engage with AAAS: 2024 U.S. Elections
2024/10/25-27 Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the American Studies Network
2024/10/26 Common Ground and Banquet
2024/10/27 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
2024/11/03 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
2024/11/10 Rep. Gene Wu's Town Hall Meeting
2024/11/12 Threats to International Engagement and Academic Freedom
2024/11/14 Asian American Career Ceiling Initiatives

Visit <https://bit.ly/3XD61qV> for event details.

2. Committee of 100: Asian American Career Ceiling Initiative



The Committee of 100 Asian American Career Ceilings Initiative
"An Advice and Networking Event (Financial Services, Investing and Consulting)"
November 14 from 6 pm ET to 7:15 pm ET

WHAT: Asian American Career Ceiling Initiative: "An Advice and Networking Event (Financial Services, Investing and Consulting)"

WHEN: November 14, 2024, 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm ET

WHERE: Webcast

HOST: Committee of 100

Moderator: Peter Young, Chair, Committee of 100 Asian American Career Ceilings Initiative

DESCRIPTION: This virtual event, the 37th in a series, will enable Asian Americans of all ages to get valuable career advice from experienced and successful Asian Americans in the Financial Services, Investing and Consulting professions. Committee of 100 expects to hold this event for a different clusters of professions in the future.

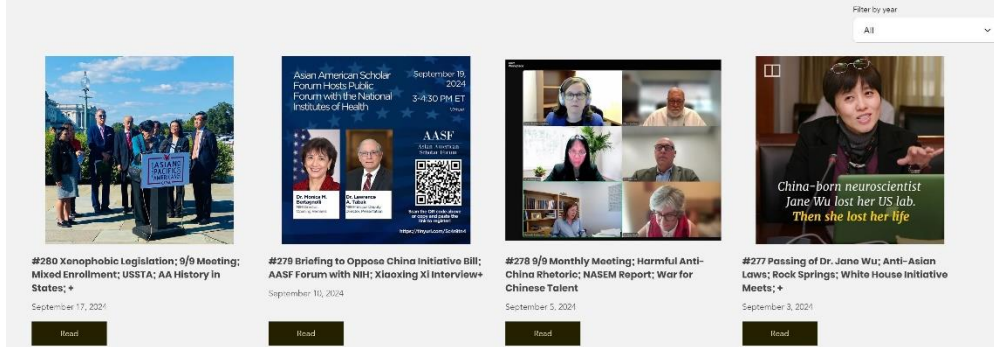
REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/3A1RUC3>

3. APA Justice Newsletter Web Page Moved to New Website

Newsletters

APA Justice began publishing a free periodic newsletter about 4-7 times a month in July 2020. You can subscribe [here](#). Visit the [Virtual Library](#) to search the entire collection.

Filter by year
All



The screenshot shows a grid of four newsletter items. Each item has a thumbnail image, a title, a date, and a 'Read' button. The items are: 1. '#280 Xenophobic Legislation; 9/9 Meeting; Mixed Enrollment; USSTA: AA History In States; +' dated September 17, 2024, with a photo of a group of people holding a sign. 2. '#278 Briefing to Oppose China initiative Bill; AASF Forum with NIH; Xiaoxing Xi Interview+' dated September 10, 2024, with a blue graphic for the AASF forum. 3. '#278 9/9 Monthly Meeting; Harmful Anti-China Rhetoric; NASEM Report; War for Chinese Talent' dated September 5, 2021, with a video conference grid. 4. '#277 Passing of Dr. Jane Wu; Anti-Asian Laws; Rock Springs; White House Initiative Meets; +' dated September 3, 2021, with a photo of Dr. Jane Wu and a quote: 'China-born neuroscientist Jane Wu lost her US lab. Then she lost her life.'

As part of its continuing migration to a new website under construction, we have moved the Newsletter webpage to <https://www.apajusticetaskforce.org/newsletters>. Content of the existing website will remain, but it will no longer be updated. We value your feedback about the new web page. Please send your comments to contact@apajustice.org.

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