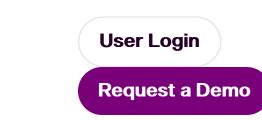
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## Haddonfield Memorial High School Case

Study on Mentorship Sep 7, 2023 10:09:27 AM

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the challenge.

authentic trust and belonging.



K-12 Education

In 2019, Haddonfield High hired four new BIPOC staff members, including the Dean of Students, Hamisi Tarrant. One of Mr. Tarrant's immediate priorities was to ensure all students felt a sense of safety, belonging, and connection.

How Mentorship Is Improving the Mental Health of AAPI Students at New Jersey's Haddonfield

In 2020, with the nationwide rise of anti-Asian sentiment, he reached out to Haddonfield's High school psychologist, Alice Lee, to ask her to consider facilitating an Asian American Cultural Club. Alice took on

Today, under Alice's guidance and mentorship, the Asian American Cultural Club (AACC) has grown into a vibrant community where Asian American students feel secure and accepted. Here's how Alice got the AACC rolling.

"Ms. Lee's mentorship and the opportunities the AACC provided to lead and learn with my peers helped me gain a better understanding of aspects of my culture that I blocked out for so much of my life." Rania, former AACC President

A Student-Led Asian American Cultural Club That Aligned With the School Mission The AACC offered Alice a chance to extend her more focused school psychologist role to include

broader mental health support. And as a Korean American, she made an ideal club voice, face, and

facilitator. The students could truly see themselves in her, and that recognition was crucial to building

 Raise money for Stop AAPI Hate. Offer Asian candies and paper cranes with the student body at school events.

Arrange potlucks several times each school year. Students cook a cultural dish at home with their

Although Alice drafted the club description and offered guidance and feedback, the student members

themselves were responsible for establishing its priorities and operations. They decided to:

Run a book club for the entire community featuring Asian narrative novels.

Commit to show up for each other in authentic peer-to-peer support.

parents and bring it in to share with other club members.

Hold casual, non-agenda meetings.

group.

around stereotypes, microaggressions, and school action plans. Thanks to Alice's mentorship, AACC lives out Haddonfield's school mission: The students were indeed

Participate in the county Equity Summit, a school assembly designed to create conversations

empowered to build a club that nurtured them holistically and inspired them as individuals and as a

familial. The students include me in their conversations — from what's going on in their social circles to their shared experiences as first-generation or second-generation immigrants.

Alice Lee

The Asian American Cultural Club has

relationships with the students have felt more

become more than a club to me; my

time, energy, support, and counsel to her mentees resulted in students ability to: Select a college where there is Asian representation/diversity

mental health

students themselves.

successfully.

About Haddonfield

The picture above shows the AACC of 2022-2023.

and Wellbeing

 Advocate for themselves and others in experiences of microaggressions Grow pride in their identities and home cultures Recently, Haddonfield High School's AACC club presented to the board of education. One club member, Asher, took the opportunity to share reflections on the club: "What's really meant the most to

me is this community that we've formed. I've found a whole new group of interesting people, talented

Alice's mentorship has helped club members feel understood and build resilience — the students'

presentation to the board and letters she has received from former members are certainly evidence of

people, to be friends with. That wouldn't have been possible without joining the AAPI club."

Mentorship Made a Measurable Difference in the AACC Members' Health

Alice's involvement in the AACC was that of facilitator and mentor. She made herself available to club

members and responded fully to those students seeking additional connection and direction. Alice's

that. But successful mentorship is never a solo act. Alice's mentees have provided a way for her to care for her own mental health. "The AACC has been a way for me to care for and heal my own inner child." A Repeatable Formula for Proactively Strengthening BIPOC students'

Effective mentorship requires a dedicated and capable individual to serve as a guide, confidant, and

role model for an equally committed person. This partnership is mutually advantageous and involves

environment, yet the club structure delegated a significant portion of decision-making authority to the

"I hope the AACC can serve as a model for other schools," says Alice. "Getting a club started may not

experienced meaningful connection with others —including me! I've seen how the connection we grow

be easy, but the steps are actually pretty simple. Once the club built momentum, everyone involved

with each other can serve as an antidote for teen mental health struggles — and a safeguard for my

shared efforts. In the context of the Haddonfield AACC, Alice established and maintained the

The AACC is growing. Involvement and attendance is consistent, even as club officers graduate. The book club attracts both students and community adults. While Alice now receives a stipend, she experiences payoff far more important.

own health and well-being." "Ms. Lee, Thank you for being real with me, for sharing your experiences as an Asian American woman, and for valuing my opinion. You've played an important role in my personal identity journey." Kiki, former AACC club officer Feeling called to be a mentor to a teen or group of teens? Learn more about how to mentor

(Go Bulldawgs!) and its academics.

Alice Lee

Haddonfield High School is located in Haddonfield, New Jersey, which is 20 minutes from Philadelphia.

Haddonfield High has a student population of around 900, and its stellar reputation rests on its athletics

Alice Lee is a school psychologist and the advisor of the Asian American Cultural Club at Haddonfield Memorial High School in Haddonfield, NJ. She became a school psychologist to have a tangible impact on the next generation and to see them reach their potential by advocating for the

Swift.

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