



Dear Southcoast Colleagues,

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of the cultures, traditions and histories of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.

At Southcoast, we take note of this month and join with our Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues, friends and family, as well as with our entire community, to celebrate the positive contributions and rich heritage of Americans with Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry.

This year, in particular, in light of recent acts of violence against Asian Americans and an increase of anti-Asian sentiment related to the pandemic, it is imperative that we voice our support for all Asian/Pacific Americans and stand against any form of discrimination or prejudice toward our fellow citizens.

At Southcoast Health, we stand with our Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues and condemn in the strongest terms any actions and written or spoken words that are racist, derogatory or prejudicial.

Southcoast Health takes pride in the diligent work our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, alongside senior leadership, has been doing to assure that all employees and patients enjoy a safe, respectful environment. If you would like to know more about those efforts and/or become involved with the Council's projects, please reach out to Barbara Schmidt, Director of Organizational Culture & Engagement.

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. From 1977 through 1992, Congress passed a variety of legislation that led to the designation of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Month. This week's Southcoast Weekly will contain links to information and resources about Asian/Pacific American history and culture.

Thank you for joining me in paying tribute to the generations of Asian and Pacific Islanders who have enriched America's history and are instrumental in its future success. And thank you to everyone of Asian and Pacific Island heritage in our Southcoast family for your contributions to Southcoast Health. We honor and celebrate this month with you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. A. Hovan".

Keith A. Hovan
President & CEO
Southcoast Health