



Dear Southcoast Colleagues,

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month is observed annually in May to celebrate the contributions that generations of AAPIs have made to American history, society, and culture. It is a time to celebrate the cultures and traditions of people in the United States with origins across the continent of Asia and the Island Nations of Oceania. Some of the countries recognized throughout this month are Korea, China, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Hawaii, Guam, Samoa and many other Pacific Islands.

At Southcoast, we invite you to join us in recognizing our Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues, friends, family and community. We are proud to celebrate the many positive contributions and rich heritage of our community members with Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry.

In the coming weeks, we will highlight our colleagues who have generously agreed to share their stories to increase our awareness and understanding of their cultures. Please look for these stories on social media and in Southcoast Weekly.

In recent years, there have been increased incidents involving anti-Asian rhetoric and violence. 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.

Our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) Council, in collaboration with senior leadership, works actively to promote awareness and understanding among our colleagues, our patients and the community. Please reach out to Melanie Cluley, Director of Organizational Culture and Engagement and Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council via email at [CluleyM@southcoast.org](mailto:CluleyM@southcoast.org) for more information about how to get involved.

Thank you to our Asian American and Pacific Islander colleagues for all your efforts and hard work as Southcoast Health colleagues, serving our patients and the community. We honor and celebrate this month with you.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren A. De Simon Johnson".

Lauren A. De Simon Johnson  
Sr. Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Southcoast Health