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NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC.

19 Scenic Drive, Portland, Connecticut 06480

Fall, 2022

www.nsrcfund.org

To our NSRCF Supporters and Friends,

As someone who has devoted a great deal of energy studying the experience of Asians in America, I have been asked many times to comment on the connection between the racism following the attack on Pearl Harbor and the rise of COVID 19. My simple answer is, "The same misguided stereotyping of all Japanese Americans as perpetual foreigners responsible for what took place in Japan is what is behind the disturbing increase in racist behavior targeting Chinese and other Asian Americans because of their alleged ties to the deadly virus."

What are some of the answers to ending this pattern where the Japanese American incarceration was a painful precursor? One response is the need for and the value of a better educated and informed public both universally aware of the treatment of Americans of Japanese descent and who understand that the racism and hatred did not begin nor end 80 years ago.

In awarding annual scholarships, the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund also teaches that the incarceration of over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry was not an isolated act. We draw a direct line from the internment to the murder of Vincent Chin to the attacks on South Asians, Muslims, and other Americans after 9-11, to the murder of Asian women workers in Atlanta. We are confident that the financial support and encouragement we give every year to prospective college students strengthens the message that the lessons of the past must be heeded.

Now in its 42nd year, I hope you will continue to support this wonderful effort to improve the lives of students and their families and to provide accurate information about the need to remain vigilant in combatting racism. We are proud to have awarded \$1.25 million to over 1,100 students so far. For those who haven't contributed before, we welcome your willingness to join those who now more than any time since the internment recognize the need to invest in students who will help to carry the message of "never again."

Thanks to all of you, and please stay healthy and safe.

Paul Watanabe, President NSRCF Board of Directors

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