

### **Keynote with Simran Tamang**

Question: What was the experience of your family/parent's engagement with school system and how challenging was it as you mentioned they do not speak English?

Simran Tamang: My elementary and middle school did make an effort to communicate with my parents despite their lack of fluency in English by sometimes providing Nepali translated fliers or translation services. However, many times the school system were not able to provide these translations which made it more challenging for my parents to engage with my teachers or school in general

Question: Simran, how do you handle/cope with the Asian stereotype that all Asians are highly intelligent? Has it motivated you or added unnecessary stress?

Simran Tamang: Every Asian person has different experiences and comes from different backgrounds so I don't take the stereotype to heart because I know of my own motivation and desire to be accomplished and work hard does not just come from me being Asian, rather it comes from my desire to take advantage of the privilege of education that I have been awarded. So, not taking the stereotype to heart has allowed me to work hard and do well in school without any unnecessary stress.

Question: What did you find least helpful that teachers or the school did?

Simran Tamang: Not asking questions for clarifications -- there were times when teachers would assume I didn't know something and underestimate my intelligence because I am an immigrant or they would assume I knew something because I am an immigrant when in fact, I was clueless, so it would be helpful for immigrant students if teachers asked them questions to clarify assumptions they may have before taking action based on that assumption.