

## **Gem P. Daus, M.A.**

**Gem P. Daus, M.A.** is the Director of Policy at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF), a national advocacy organization whose mission is to enable Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to attain the highest level of health and well being. Founded in 1986, the Health Forum approaches activities with the philosophy of coalition-building and developing capacity within local Asian America and Pacific Islander communities.

Gem coordinates advocacy efforts aimed at:

- Increasing access to health care, particularly for uninsured immigrants and minorities.
- Improving quality of health care
- Increasing the competence and diversity of the health professions
- Increasing research and data collection
- Increasing the involvement of communities in promoting and advocating for their own health and well-being.

In April 2003, Gem was one of five individuals honored by the Congressional Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, Native American Caucus, and Asian and Pacific American Caucus with the 2003 Healthcare Hero Award. The Healthcare Hero Award honors healthcare professionals who have dedicated their efforts toward expanding healthcare access in minority communities and the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

Gem has a Master of Arts in Organization Development from Marymount University (Arlington, Virginia) and a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Virginia (Charlottesville). His previous experience includes developing community-based health programs, building boards and coalitions, and developing human resources through his employment with the American Red Cross and the National Minority AIDS Council, and his volunteer work as president of the Asian and Pacific Islander Partnership for Health, a local health promotion and advocacy organization.

Gem was the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Coordinator for APIAHF from September 2000 until his promotion to director. He is based in the Washington, DC office of the Health Forum.