32nd Annual AEAC Awards
Sunday, May 7, 2017 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel | 3203 Quebec St. | Denver, Colorado 80207

Sponsored By

Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency
Mile High Japanese American Citizens League
Mel Okamoto
Dae Gee Koren BBQ Restaurant
Japanese American Association of Colorado
KDG Engineering - Stan Kobayashi
Yeh and Associates
Colorado Asian Pacific American Bar Foundation
FirstBank
Bilewski & Kobayashi
Lisa La
Rachele Espíritu
Rosemary Rodriguez
Lisa Flores

Contributing Friends

The Capital Grille
Sisi Dong
Tom Migaki
Darren & Priscilla Rahn
The Doubletree Hotel
Ken Migaki & Lia Brunner
The Denver Public Schools Asian Education Advisory Council is pleased to present the 32nd Annual AEAC Awards to honor students, parents, educators, and community volunteers for outstanding achievements and contributions to Asian/Pacific Islander communities. AEAC was established in 1985 by the Denver Public Schools Board of Education (BOE) and seeks to improve educational quality and opportunities for all students, with emphasis on students of Asian or Pacific Island heritage.

...... Program ......

Silent Auction

Opening Introductions
Junmo Lee, Community Business Leader & Joie Ha, Asian American Heroes of Colorado
Young Hero Award

Posting of Colors, Montbello HS Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Greetings
Consul General Hiroto Hirakoba,
Consulate General of Japan

Breakfast

Entertainment
Umbrella Dance - Amy Van, Aimee Nguyen, Hannee Nguyen,
Michelle Huyunh, Leyna Le and Ayla Nguyen
Dance Performance - Mackenzie Magno,
Denver Language School

Keynote Speaker
Honorable Kerry Hada

*Live Auction*

Awards Ceremony
AEAC Board Members & Guests

Closing Remarks
Junmo Lee & Joie Ha

Retiring of Colors, Montbello HS Color Guard

AEAC Award Recipients

* Highest Honor

High School Academic Awards

Ivana Adelaide..........................................................................................................................MLK EC
ShuXiu Aldridge......................................................................................................................TJHS
Joon Baang* (Allstate Winner) ..............................................................Noel Community Arts
John Baltazar..........................................................................................................................MLK EC
Hailey Baltazar......................................................................................................................MLK EC
Melia Chan.............................................................................................................................MLK EC
Tina Doan.................................................................................................................................KCAA
Lillian Gregg..........................................................................................................................North HS
Roger Nakagawa.....................................................................................................................TJHS
Kenny Pham............................................................................................................................MLK EC
Tegan Suzuki............................................................................................................................TJHS
Nhi To.................................................................................................................................STRIVE Prep Excel
Davin Verdun..........................................................................................................................MLK EC
Yaping Zhuo...........................................................................................................................DCISM

Leadership Awards

Annie Chen* (Allstate Winner) ........................................................................................GWHS
Tina Doan...............................................................................................................................KCAA
Samiriddin Meliboev...........................................................................................................GWHS
Jessica Nguyen......................................................................................................................MLK EC
ThanhBinh Nguyen..............................................................................................................North HS
Austin Phoutthavong.............................................................................................................MLK EC
Lee Seck.................................................................................................................................MLK EC
Middle School - - -

Academic Awards

Hang Pham*............................................... Denver Language School
Will Biancarelli........................................... Denver Language School
Nina Ni Ling Braddock............................... Hill Campus of Arts & Science
Caelen Hilty................................................. McAuliffe International
Zoe Newman............................................. Denver Language School
Jane Nguyen............................................... Hill Campus of Arts & Science
Leela Powers............................................. Denver Language School
Ava Sittiseri............................................... Hill Campus of Arts & Science
Amy Yee..................................................... DCISM

Leadership Awards

Dylan Phoutthavong*................................. MLK EC
Juliane Wera............................................. Denver Language School

Elementary School - - -

Academic Awards

Brandon Bui............................................. Castro Elem.
Madeline Chufong-Sprague....................... Carson Elem.
Audrey Doane*........................................... Denver Language School
Nadav Goldstein....................................... Park Hill Elem.
Tanya Ha................................................... Castro Elem.
Daniel Huynh........................................... College View Elem.
Melvin Huynh........................................... College View Elem.
Truong Huynh........................................... College View Elem.
Michelle Huynh*...................................... College View Elem.
Clara Jeon............................................... McKinley-Thatcher Elem.
Leyna Le................................................... College View Elem.
Mackenzie Magno..................................... Denver Language School
Jeslyn Nguyen.......................................... Gust Elem.
My-Kim Nguyen...................................... Castro Elem.
Dat Nguyen............................................. Castro Elem.
Aimee Nguyen......................................... College View Elem.
Tina Nguyen........................................... Castro Elem.
Brendan Nguyen.................................... Castro Elem.
Jolina Nguyen........................................ Castro Elem.
Henry Nguyen........................................ Castro Elem.
Doan Nguyen.......................................... Castro Elem.
Ayla Nguyen........................................... College View Elem.
Johnny Pham........................................... College View Elem.
Lily Phan................................................ Gust Elem.
Madeleine Sengen................................. Park Hill Elem.
Hoang Tran............................................ Castro Elem.
Bryan Tran........................................... Castro Elem.
Lina Ngoc Tran..................................... Castro Elem.
Jennifer Tran......................................... Castro Elem.
Lac Tran.................................................. Castro Elem.
Huynh Truong......................................... College View Elem.
Amy Van............................................... College View Elem.
Tuyen Vong........................................... Castro Elem.
Brian Vu................................................... College View Elem.
Sichen Yang.................................. Denver Language School
Raymond Yang..................................... Castro Elem.

Leadership Awards

Andrew Baack........................................ Denver Language School
Matthew Chufong-Sprague....................... Carson Elem.
Claire Jeon........................................ McKinley-Thatcher Elem.
Elise Khong*........................................ McKinley-Thatcher Elem.
Benjamin Konieczny.............................. Denver Language School
Diep Nguyen.......................................... Castro Elem.
Hannah Nguyen................................. College View Elem.
Hung Nguyen...................................... Castro Elem.
Anh Nguyen.......................................... Castro Elem.
Henry Hieu Nguyen................................ Castro Elem.
Ka Pham............................................... College View Elem.
Yenzi Polonsky................................. Denver Language School
Alison Sittiser*.................................... Carson Elem.

Special Talent - - -

Samuel Chappell* (Loa Maas Winner)........... TJHS
Edison Endita........................................ Manual HS
Loi Nguyen........................................ KCAA
Breana Quach....................................... MLK EC
Nhi Tran................................................. KCAA
Han Nguyen............................................ Taylor Academy

Teacher - - -

Ryan Fune.......................................... Castro Elem.
Ma Geng.............................................. Denver Language School
Susanne Hale......................................... Castro Elem.
Hung Huynh*........................................ Castro Elem.
Shirley Li.............................................. Denver Language School
Belinda Liu........................................... Denver Language School
Yan Peng............................................ Denver Language School
Mai Pham............................................. College View Elem.
Priscilla Rahn....................................... DCISM
Sarah Zhang.......................................... Castro Elem.

Para Professional - - -

Ross Donovan.................................... Denver Language School
Claire Goodwin*................................... Denver Language School
Diana Guo........................................... Denver Language School
Hui Wang............................................. Denver Language School
Ruhong Wu........................................... Denver Language School

Administrator - - -

Gwen Qin*........................................... Denver Language School

Parent Volunteer - - -

Ann Konieczny*..................................... Denver Language School

Organization - - -

Asian Art Association
Judge Hada received his B.S. in 1971 from the University of Colorado College of Business, his Master of Science in 1976 from Colorado State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Denver College of Law in 1988. From 1971-1974 Judge Hada was an Airborne Ranger infantry officer in the United States Army. After leaving the army, he began working for CF&I Steel Corporation and became a regional sales manager for a 10-state marketing area.

From 1986-1989, Judge Hada worked as a law clerk for Manville Corporation, prosecutor for the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office and as Assistant to the Athletic Director, Bill Marolt, at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

In 1989, Judge Hada opened a private practice, Law Offices of Kerry S. Hada, P.C. with cases admitted in Colorado, Hawaii, the Colorado Supreme Court, Hawaii Supreme Court, U.S. District Court of Colorado, Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme court. Judge Hada remained in private practice until his appointment to the Denver County Court in December of 2008.

Judge Hada has been a regular keynote speaker including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, United States Veterans Alliance of Vietnam War Vets, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, to name a few and many schools in DPS. He has co-authored several publications and has been awarded with many recognitions: 2012 Foreign Minister of Japan Award and Recognition Feather Quill form the U.S. Supreme Court.

On his free time, Judge Hada enjoys fishing, hunting, golf, skiing and tennis. He is a former professional ski racer and ski racing coach.

Support AEAC!

AEAC meets the first Wednesday of every month at the DPS Administration office, 1860 Lincoln St. Denver at 5:30pm. Anyone is welcome to join us as a guest or volunteer board member. We are a non-profit organization and rely on generous donations of patrons to provide awards for students.

Contributions can be mailed to:
Asian Education Advisory Council (AEAC)
P.O. Box 40439
Denver, CO 80204

Key Note Speaker

Community Award

The Asian Art Association (AAA), a membership support group for the Asian Art Collection and the Asian Art Department at the Denver Art Museum, is dedicated to promoting knowledge and understanding of Asian art and culture. It works closely with the Asian Art Department to present programs and activities that will enable the community to learn and enjoy, while keeping abreast of important developments in the fascinating world of Asian art. The AAA presents a Wednesday-at-Noon lecture series from September to May and evening lectures throughout the year. Established in 1981, the Asian Art Association promotes the department’s programs in education, acquisition, and conservation. It fosters the growth of a vibrant and cohesive community of people interested in Asian art and culture. AAA members enjoy personal interaction with the Asian Art Department staff, exhibition previews, private tours, behind-the-scenes events, and opportunities to meet like-minded enthusiasts.

For more information or to join AAA, go to www.asianartassociation.org.

In Memory of Loan Maas

Loan Maas, Denver Public Schools’ director of early college and a former principal, and her husband Dan were killed in an automobile accident August 2016.

“Loan was always a champion for kids and focused on equity,” said Randy Johnson, DPS executive director of postsecondary readiness. “She was very special - brilliant and caring, funny and determined, compassionate, reflective and always positive. We are better as individuals, and as an organization, having had the chance to know her.”

Loan Maas began her career in DPS in 2010, and served as the principal of George Washington High School, director of expanded learning opportunities, a middle school improvement partner and, most recently, was the director of early college in the Office of College and Career Readiness. Maas came to DPS with the mission to support all kids on their journey to college.

Loan’s husband, Dan, was chief operations officer for the Thompson School District. They were an accomplished duo who recently published a professional article. They are survived by their beloved son Calvin, a college student at Colorado State University.

AEAC Board Members and Awards Selection Committee

Priscilla Rahn, Chairperson  Tom Migaki, Treasurer
Ryan Fune, Co-Secretary Lia Brunner, Co-Secretary

Sisi Dong, Stan Kobayashi, Steve Kohuth, Shelley Migaki, Khoa Nguyen

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