34th Annual AEAC Awards
Sunday, May 5, 2019  |  9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel  |  3203 Quebec St.  |  Denver, Colorado 80207
Sponsored By

Denver Public Schools Board of Education
Anne Rowe - District 1       Barbara O’Brien - At Large
Lisa Flores - District 5       Dr. Carrie Olson - District 3
Happy Haynes - At Large      Jennifer Bacon - District 4
Angela Cobian - District 2

Denver Classroom Teachers Association◆ Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency
KDG Engineering◆ Mel Okamoto◆ Alex and Rachele Espiritu
Japanese American Association of Colorado◆ FirstBank
Colorado Asian Pacific American Bar Foundation
Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League
Bilewski & Kobayashi LLC◆ Kumar and Associates
Lisa Nguyen◆ Sakura Foundation◆ Ricoh

Contributing Friends

The Capital Grille
Dae Gee Korean BBQ
Zane’s Italian Bistro
Bap & Gogi
KDG Engineering, LLC
Darren & Priscilla Rahn
Rumi Nishimura
Kokoro
Topo Designs
DPS CELT
Super Star Asian Cuisine
The Asian Cajun
Pho Duy
Pho 96
Alexandra Saba
Hamilton Middle School
Namaste
FosterGals Scentsy
Zaika Indian Express
Ryan Fune

Costco
Heather Salazar
Tea Street
Tea 4 U
Pho 4 U
TJ Auto Bay
Annie Guo
Doubletree Hotel
Elvina Lim
The Denver Public Schools Asian Education Advisory Council is pleased to present the 34th 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
Steven Kohuth, AEAC Board Leader

Posting of Colors, Montbello HS Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance
Sum Nguyen

Greetings
Susana Cordova
DPS Superintendent

Breakfast

Entertainment
College View Elementary - Fortnite Dance
KCAA - Kpop Dance
Colorado Asian Cultural Heritage Center
Dragon & Lion Dance Association

Keynote Speaker
Midori Takeuchi
Consul General of Japan

Awards Ceremony
AEAC Board Members & Guests

Closing Remarks
Steven Kohuth

Retiring of Colors, Montbello HS Color Guard
AEAC Award Recipients

**High School**

**Academic Awards**

- Benita Bhandari - MLK Early College
- Deepa Chapagai - MLK Early College
- Monica Clemente - MLK Early College
- Patricia Clemente - MLK Early College
- Thang Le - John F. Kennedy
- Chun Lee - Denver Online
- Nga Ngo - MLK Early College
- Brandon Nguyen - MLK Early College
- Steven Nguyen (*Allstate Winner) - Abraham Lincoln
- Ngo Duc Tran Phan - DCIS
- Dylan Phouthavong - MLK Early College
- Journey Prack - East
- Bertina Pham Quach - MLK Early College
- Puja Rai - MLK Early College
- Cynthia Sathya Soro - MLK Early College
- Kamana Upreti - MLK Early College
- Nhi Vu - MLK Early College

**Leadership Awards**

- Treasure Bunsom - MLK Early College
- Samikshya Dimal - MLK Early College
- Lily Chandary Kasanoy - MLK Early College
- Josh Nguyen - CEC Early College
- Tam Nguyen (*Allstate Winner) - John F. Kennedy
- Breana Pham Quach - MLK Early College
- Saruna Rai - MLK Early College
- Aliza Sopath - MLK Early College
- Punam Upreti - MLK Early College
- Davin Verdun - MLK Early College

**Middle School**

**Academic Awards**

- Hannah Bartelt - Hamilton
- Owen Duffy - Hill Campus of Arts and Science
- Sophia Fabian - Hill Campus of Arts and Science
- Nina Hoang - Grant Ranch ECE-8
- Hanan Kamran - Hamilton
- Hajar Kamran - Hamilton
- Tatiana Martinez-Tran* - Hamilton
- Sohan Parmer - Hamilton
- Khush Thakor - Hamilton
- Holly Tran - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy

**Elementary School**

**Academic Awards**

- Tuong Cindy Ho* - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy
- Ashmita Dhimal - Hamilton
- Katherine Duffy - Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences
- Cassidy Truong - Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy
- Kirsten Francis - Denver Language School
- Phoenix Ho - Denver Language School

**Leadership Awards**

- Genevieve Batt - Denver Language School
- Shreeasti Bhattarai - Place Bridge Academy
- Paige Brumblay - Denver Language School
- Brandon Bui - Park Hill
- Taylee Chau - College View
- Zhi Gang Chen - Lowry
- Dawn Cubangbang* - Math & Science LA.
- Meghan Doane - Denver Language School
- Zoe Dorroh - Park Hill
- Bobby Duong - College View
- Eliana Foster - Denver Language School
- Corinne Hatayama - Centennial
- Nabi Hatayama - Centennial
- Ezra Hemmings - Centennial
- Kiet Huynh - College View
- Elvin Ke - Denver Language School
- Meili Kerrigan - DCIS Fairmont
- Rohan Khanna - Denver Language School
- Thich Kim - Doull
- Krongkhaun Kratumnok - Beach Court
- Kayden Laima - College View
- Leyna Le - College View
- Karena Li* - Samuels
- Zackary Lim - Place Bridge Academy
- Patrick Lin - Denver Language School
- Melody Ga Yi Liu - Denver Language School
- Charles McIntyre - Denver Language School
- Lay N. Moo* - Place Bridge Academy
- Tina Nguyen - Castro
- Hung Nguyen - Castro
- Doan Nguyen - Castro
- Henry Nguyen - Castro
- Anna Nguyen - College View
- Anh-Thu Nguyen - College View
- Elena Paw - Place Bridge Academy
- Vincent Pham - Castro
- Kha Pham - College View
- Phong Dang Pham - College View
Leadership Awards

Amy Yi Fei Choi..............................................Centennial
Kai Du.........................................................Castro
Sabrina Jackson.........................................Denver Language School
Sujal Kafley....................................................Place Bridge Academy
Lina Kim....................................................Centennial
Joe Kim*.....................................................Centennial
Huyen Le.....................................................Castro
Thang Le.....................................................Castro
Jolina Nguyen..............................................Castro
Hannah Nguyen..........................................Force
Jolina Nguyen*.............................................Castro
Quang Pham...............................................Castro
Thu Pham....................................................Castro
Jin Powell....................................................Highline Academy-NE
Muhaiyuddin Sadak-Hussan.........................Place Bridge Academy
David Say.....................................................Place Bridge Academy
Jennifer Tran..............................................Castro
Bryan Tran....................................................Castro
Jensen Tsao*..............................................Denver Language School

- - - Special Talent - - -

Maralgoo Amarsanaa* (Loan Maas)............Hamilton MS
Zobayar Barmunkh..........................................Hamilton MS
Lyn Chung.................................................Lowry Elem.
Timothy Duong..........................................College View Elem.
Bryan Gordon.............................................DCIS
Peter Grant..............................................Denver Language School
Aaliyah Gregory........................................MLK Early College
Jim Le.......................................................Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy
John Le......................................................Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy
Angel Lin...................................................Hamilton MS
Augustine Lut............................................MLK Early College
Chandra Magar..........................................MLK Early College
Oh Mai.....................................................Place Bridge Academy
Nyla Nakashima* (Loan Maas)....................Grant Ranch ECE-8
Isabella Schulz...........................................Denver Language School
Serenity Soutthivong.....................................Manual HS
Edward Strand..........................................Hamilton MS
Flavian Torres...........................................Hamilton MS
Danh Vu...................................................MLK Early College

- - - Teacher - - -

Anthony Abel-Pype.........................................Kunsmiller Creative Arts
Althea Davis...............................................Kaiser Elementary
David Elbot*..............................................Place Bridge Academy

- - - Administrator - - -

Brenda Kazin..............................................Place Bridge Academy
Jessica Leonard*........................................Denver Language School
Robert Newman.........................................Denver Language School
Christian Sawyer.......................................Hamilton Middle School

- - - Administrator Assistant - - -

Lyndsay Taylor*.........................................Denver Language School

- - - Parent Volunteer - - -

Jennifer I*..................................................Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences

- - - Special Service Provider - - -

Anne Aragon*.............................................John F. Kennedy High School

- - - Organization - - -

Sushi Rama and Osaka Ramen

Please take home a centerpiece orchid for a suggested donation of $20 made to AEAC.
Your donation is tax deductible.
School District No. 1  
in the City and County of Denver and State of Colorado  
Board of Education  

PROCLAMATION  

NATIONAL ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH  

WHEREAS, in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 annually designating May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage month; and  

WHEREAS, the month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 as the majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants; and  

WHEREAS, this month-long celebration recognizes the valuable contributions made by residents of Asian/Pacific descent to all aspects of American life, including leadership in public services, business, the arts, education and civil rights; and  

WHEREAS, Denver Public Schools recognizes the positive impact our Asian/Pacific communities have on the educational, social, cultural and economic development of Denver and the State of Colorado; and  

WHEREAS, 3.6% of Denver students are of Asian/Pacific descent making it imperative to embrace our diverse history so that all children can see themselves in our Nation’s past and know that they have a crucial role to play in its future;  

WHEREAS, in 1985 the Asian Education Advisory Council (AEAC) was established in Denver Public Schools to improve educational opportunities and to provide quality education for all students, particularly students of Asian/Pacific Island (AA/PI) heritage; and  

WHEREAS, the AEAC holds an annual awards ceremony in May to coincide with National Asian/Pacific American Heritage month recognizing AA/PI students for their outstanding academic achievement and leadership qualities; and  

WHEREAS, the AEAC Board, Priscilla Shaw, Chair; Tom Migaki, Treasurer; Ryan Fune, Secretary; and board members Stan Kobayashi, Steve Kohuth, Shelley Migaki, Elvina Lim, Khoa Nguyen, and Mel Okamoto, strive to act on behalf of the educational interests of Asian/Pacific students, parents, employees and the community, by ensuring National Asian/Pacific American Heritage month is honored.  

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Education of School District No. 1 in the City and County of Denver and the State of Colorado this date, April 25, 2019, pays tribute to the Asian/Pacific American culture and the AEAC for their contributions to Denver Public Schools, the City of Denver, the State of Colorado and officially recognizes the month of May 2019 as National Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.  

Let this proclamation be entered into the official records of the school district.  

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Anne Rowe, President  
Barbara O’Brien, Vice President  
Dr. Carrie Olson, Secretary  
Lisa Flores, Treasurer  
Jennifer Bacon  
Angela Cobián  
Happy Haynes  
Susana Cordova, Superintendent
Midori Takeuchi is currently the Consul-General of Japan in Denver, and arrived in Colorado to assume this position in November, 2018. The office of the Consulate General of Japan in Denver is responsible for consular duties servicing the four states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. In January of 2019, the Consulate General of Japan in Denver marked the 20th anniversary of its establishment in 1999.

Consul General Takeuchi joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1982. Her overseas posts since then include the Embassy of Japan in Singapore, the Consulate General of Japan in New York, and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. Prior to her assignment to Denver, she served as Senior Director of Operations in the Ministry’s Foreign Service Training Institute, and as Director of the International Affairs Division at the Board of Audit in Japan. Her wide-ranging experience within the head offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo covers US politics and foreign policy, international organizations, APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Forum, Asia-Europe Cooperation, international energy and trade policy, and domestic public relations.

As of April 2019, Consul General Takeuchi is one of 39 women serving in 631 managerial posts above director-level within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and one of just 13 female heads of mission among 246 foreign diplomatic offices representing the Japanese government around the world. In this respect, she has played an active role as a mentor for junior officers within the Ministry, delivering an important message toward achieving a “society where anyone can shine” regardless of gender or social status. Further, she has recently shared her professional experiences as a role model for other government officials through official training programs provided by the National Personnel Authority.

Throughout her career, she has visited 27 countries, including China, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, and the UAE, among others, and attended G7 summit meetings in London and Munich as well as G20 summit meetings in Washington D.C. and London. She is married with two sons, one born in Singapore and the other in New York.

Jeff Osaka is the chef-owner of Congress Park’s 12 at Madison, Osaka Ramen, and Sushi-Rama. Born in Los Angeles, chef Jeff Osaka has always been fascinated by the restaurant industry. Although he didn’t step behind his first professional stove until the age of 28, Jeff has cooked alongside some of the best chefs on the west coast - and garnered praise from critics and peers alike for his own indelible contributions to the culinary world.

In January 2019, Sushi-Rama also provided free meals to furloughed government employees in Denver. In February 2019, Osaka provided free lunch for three straight days to DPS teachers on strike at all of his Osaka Ramen and Sushi-Rama restaurants. Osaka participated in the James Beard Foundation Chefs Bootcamp for Policy and Change, a prestigious event intended to educate and empower chefs and food industry professionals to act as advocates for change in our food system, and feels ready to tackle all sorts of issues.

Over the course of the summit, Osaka learned more than he ever imagined. “They also taught us how to apply the advocacy tools we learned to wherever you may want to take your career,” he explains. For his part, Osaka has been thinking about starting a nonprofit organization that supports workers in the hospitality industry. “We’re the most generous people I can think of,” says Osaka. “We give to so many local charities, but nobody really does anything for us. And the sustainability of a career in this industry is dwindling. I want to create something that makes our workplace better.”

For more information go to: www.12atmadison.com https://sushi-rama.com and www.osakaramendenerver.com
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.

aeac.dpsk12.org

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

--- Past Community Winners ---
2018 - Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
2017 - Asian Art Association
2016 - White House Initiative on AAPI
2015 - Asian Avenue Magazine
2014 - Asian Pacific Development Center
2013 - Japanese American Association of Colorado
2012 - Japanese American Citizens League
2011 - Durihana
2010 - Heritage Camps

AEAC Board Members and Awards Selection Committee

Priscilla Shaw Rahn, Chairperson
Tom Migaki, Treasurer
Ryan Fune, Secretary
Elvina Htoo, Stan Kobayashi, Steve Kohuth, Shelley Migaki, Khoa Nguyen, Daniel Kim, Hazuki Tochihara, Mel Okamoto (Emeritus)

Shelley Migaki
303-421-9702