33rd Annual AEAC Awards
Sunday, May 6, 2018 | 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 Teacher’s Association

Allstate Migaki Insurance Agency  Bilewski & Kobayashi
The Capital Grille  Colorado Asian Pacific American Bar Foundation
Darren & Priscilla Rahn  Doubletree Hotel  First Bank

Japanese American Association of Colorado

KDG Engineering, LLC  Rumi Nishimura  Ken Migaki
Kumar & Associates  Lia Brunner  Lisa La  Mel Okamoto
Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League

Noelle Lewis Art  Rumi Nishimura  Yeh and Associates
The Denver Public Schools Asian Education Advisory Council is pleased to present the 33rd 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

Greetings
Hiroto Hirakoba, Consul General of Japan
James McGibney, Honorary Consul Emeritus
Republic of Korea

Breakfast

Entertainment
Violin & Viola Duet - Nina Weprin, Tippy Teawdeswan
Piano Solo - Zolbayar Batmunkh
US Korean Traditional Dance Group

Keynote Speaker
Rachele Espiritu

*Live Auction*

Awards Ceremony
AEAC Board Members & Guests

Closing Remarks
Steven Kohuth

Retiring of Colors, Montbello HS Color Guard

AEAC Award Recipients
* Highest Honor

- - - Special Talent - - -

Zolbayar Batmunkh* (Loan Maas Winner).................Hamilton MS
Isabella Chang-Nunely.......................................Schmitt Elem.
Carter Dao......................................................MLK EC
Luong Duong......................................................MLK EC
Ananya Nepal.....................................................Hamilton MS
Nhathuy Nguyen...............................................MLK EC
Nil Padhiar..........................................................Hamilton MS
Shayan Patel......................................................Denver Language School
Sarita Patel..........................................................Denver Language School
Edson Chemeong Sewell.....................................Place Bridge Academy
Ling Shen..........................................................MLK EC
Tippy Teawdeswan..............................................Hamilton MS
Rachel Teska......................................................Hamilton MS
Danh Vu* (Loan Maas Winner)..............................MLK EC
Damari Washington...........................................Hamilton MS
Evan Zilverberg.................................................Hamilton MS

- - - Teacher - - -

Christine Ando..................................................Park Hill
Stacey Chen.....................................................Denver Language School
Stella Chen......................................................Denver Language School
Elizabeth Ferguson*...........................................Castro Elem.
Courtney Holmes................................................Hamilton MS
Ssu-Lin Jin.........................................................Denver Language School
Yu Hsin Lien......................................................Denver Language School
Mark O’Neil.........................................................Hamilton MS

- - - ParaProfessional - - -

Kyong Bennett...................................................Hamilton MS
Jessica Burden.................................................Denver Language School
Katherina Lei......................................................Place Bridge Academy
Miao Na Zheng*................................................Denver Language School
Jill Phillips-Strain..............................................Denver Language School

- - - Administrator - - -

Doug Seligman..................................................Denver Language School
Gwen Victor......................................................Hamilton MS
**- - - High School - - -**

**Academic Awards**

Rewati Baigai........................................................................MLK EC
Thuyen Bui............................................................................ALHS
Melia Chan...........................................................................MLK EC
Eric Andrew Cruz.................................................................MLK EC
Davin Giltom........................................................................MLK EC
Thu Yen Huynh.................................................................ALHS
Roger Nakagawa* (Allstate Winner)..................................TIHS
Ngan Nguyen.................................................................MLK EC
Nhathuy Nguyen............................................................MLK EC
Dylan Phoutheavong.........................................................MLK EC
Evan Quintilla-Cruz..........................................................MLK EC
Cynthia Sor.................................................................MLK EC
Leemkum Tho..................................................................MLK EC
Nghi Vu...........................................................................MLK EC

**Leadership Awards**

Lily Kasanoy.................................................................MLK EC
Sara Moradi* (Allstate Winner)...................................MLK EC
Jessica Nguyen...............................................................MLK EC
Pooja Poudel.................................................................MLK EC

**- - - Middle School - - -**

**Academic Awards**

Ruhan Adhikari..................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Andrew Baack*.................................................................Denver Language School
Dylan Deala......................................................................MLK EC
Asmita Dhimal..................................................................Hamilton MS
Audrey Doane..................................................................Denver Language School
Roshka Dulal.......................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Aliza Houl........................................................................Merrill MS
Muhammad Khan.............................................................Hamilton MS
Hui Ling............................................................................Hamilton MS
Neel Mane........................................................................Hamilton MS
Cree Moo..........................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Hai Nay Ku Paw Moo.........................................................Place Bridge Academy
Zoe Newman..................................................................Denver Language School
Nga Ngo...........................................................................MLK EC
McKenzie Nguyen.............................................................Hamilton MS
Gabrielle Meihian Notov...................................................Hill Campus of A&S
Ryan Phoutheavong..........................................................MLK EC
Leela Powers....................................................................Denver Language School
Puja Rai...............................................................................MLK EC
Sun Richardson..................................................................Denver Language School
Hannah Shigio.................................................................Hamilton MS
Caitlinn Soetedja.................................................................Hamilton MS
Taiga Sugino.....................................................................Hamilton MS
Khushi Thakor..................................................................Hamilton MS
Hannah Tran......................................................................Hamilton MS
Nina Weprin......................................................................Hamilton MS
Tian Xiyong.......................................................................Hamilton MS
Runbao Zhang.....................................................................Hamilton MS
Li Chen Zhang.....................................................................Merrill MS

**Leadership Awards**

Joshua Ceu.........................................................................Ellis Elem.
Madeline Chufong-Sprague........................................Carson Elem.
John Dang.........................................................................Schmitt Elem.
Phoenix Ho*......................................................................Denver Language School
David Htay.........................................................................Ellis Elem.
Chen-goe Keqing..............................................................Ellis Elem.
Leyna Le...........................................................................College View Elem.
Doris Liang..........................................................................Ellis Elem.
Ezra Liang.........................................................................Ellis Elem.
Thawng Liang....................................................................Ellis Elem.
Arjen Lii-Ernsting..............................................................Denver Language School
Ngwa Mee..........................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Eik Ku Moo........................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Tselmun Narankhishig.......................................................Ellis Elem.
Ayla Nguyen.......................................................................College View Elem.
Brian Nguyen....................................................................Schmitt Elem.
Eliana Peng........................................................................Denver Language School
Kha Pham...........................................................................College View Elem.
Jamie Phan.........................................................................Schmitt Elem.
Alexander Shin-Moon......................................................Ellis Elem.
Hoang Tran................................................................--------Castro Elem.
Philina Tran........................................................................Schmitt Elem.
Starley Tsai.........................................................................Denver Language School
Miriami Tsai.......................................................................Denver Language School
Sophia Wang .......................................................................Denver Language School
Fredda Yekeh......................................................................Place Bridge Academy

**- - - Elementary School - - -**

**Academic Awards**

Mohammad Ali Bin................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Maya Bartell*......................................................................Hamilton MS
Matthew Chufong-Sprague..............................................Morey MS
Vincent Lam........................................................................Denver Language School
Solange Mamet....................................................................Denver Language School
Samir Mongar.....................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Anika Zaman.........................................................................Hamilton MS

**Leadership Awards**

Jenny Du............................................................................Schmitt Elem.
Quan Le..............................................................................Pascual LeDoux Academy
Swastika Mongar................................................................Place Bridge Academy
Hannlee Nguyen*.............................................................College View Elem.
Oatee Min Saylar..............................................................Place Bridge Academy
Colin Tran...........................................................................Pascual LeDoux Academy
Cho Win.............................................................................Place Bridge Academy

**- - - Parent Volunteer - - -**

Kenneth Ho*......................................................................Denver Language School
Josh Lin.............................................................................Denver Language School
Elizabeth Teska...................................................................Hamilton MS
Babete Tsao........................................................................Denver Language School
Cameron Weprin..................................................................Hamilton MS

**- - - Organization - - -**

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival
Dr. Rachele Espiritu is a Partner of Change Matrix, LLC, a minority-and-women-owned designated small business that motivates, manages, and measures change to support systems that improve lives. She brings substantive experience and passion in the areas of children’s behavior health, behavioral health disparities and equity, cultural and linguistic competence, program evaluation, a public health approach to mental health, and systems collaboration.

Dr. Espiritu currently serves as the Project Director for the National Network to Eliminate Disparities (the NNED) in Behavior Health, a network comprised of over 3,000 members, focused on behavioral health equity for all individuals, families, and communities. She provides training and coaching at the local, state and national level to support evaluation and systems change in multiple youth and adult-serving systems, including mental health and education. While on faculty at Georgetown University, she co-authored a monograph entitled “A Public Health Approach to Children’s Mental Health: A Conceptual Framework.”

Dr. Espiritu is passionate about service leadership and community engagement. She serves on numerous boards, most recently on the Denver Public School’s Board of Education, and was appointed to the Denver Asian American Pacific Islander Commission by Mayor Hancock in 2015. Rachele was born in the Philippines and grew up in Michigan and California. She received her B.A. in psychology from the University of California at San Diego and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology for the University of Colorado at Boulder where she was a Patricia Robert Harris Fellow. She enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons, eating out, reading, and experiencing the beautiful outdoors.

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

Community Award

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is the premier organization celebrating and promoting the culture, contributions and accomplishments of Colorado’s Asian Pacific American communities. The mission of the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival is to build bridges of awareness, knowledge and understanding between the diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities and the general public through cultural education, leadership development and athletic competition. The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival debuted in 2001 at Sloan’s Lake Park in Denver, and has been held there ever since. It was the dream of three Denver area Asian community leaders who wanted to showcase the growing and diverse Asian community to the public at large (and to each ethnic community under the “Asian” and “Asian American” umbrella). Dragon Boat racing was a unique competitive sport to host here, and to showcase our many local Asian cultures.

For more information go to http://www.cdbf.org

Past Community Winners

2017 - Asian Art Association
2016 - White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders
2015 - Asian Avenue Magazine
2014 - Asian Pacific Development Center
2013 - Japanese American Association of Colorado
2012 - Japanese American Citizens League
2011 - Durhana
2010 - Heritage Camps

AEAC Board Members and Awards Selection Committee

Priscilla Rahn, Chairperson
Tom Migaki, Treasurer
Ryan Fune, Secretary

Soyon Bueno, Lia Brunner, Sisi Dong, Felicia Ho, Stan Kobayashi, Steve Kohuth, Ken Migaki, Shelley Migaki, Khoa Nguyen

Key Note Speaker

Allstate

Shelley Migaki
303-421-9702

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