



Asian American LEAD

Youth Leadership, Empowerment, and Development

PRESS RELEASE

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Asian American LEAD Celebrates 20yrs of Empowering Confident Youth Leaders

(Washington, DC) – On October 27, 2018, Asian American LEAD (AALEAD) celebrated 20 years of empowering confident youth leaders with a Gala celebration at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. Over 360 business and nonprofit leaders, public officials, educators, and AALEAD supporters and friends came together to celebrate 20 years of supporting low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American (APA) youth.

The night was kicked off by Mistress of Ceremonies, Angie Goff followed by a celebration of four individuals whose commitment to our youth and leadership in the local APA community make them AALEADers. The four awardees are Sandy Dang, Robert & Margery Myers, Ban Tran, and Eun Yang.

The evening crescendo with powerful speeches by AALEAD alum, Lan Anh and Yuanlong, both long time participants in AALEAD. LanAnh recalls her time with AALEAD, “without AALEAD I would not be able to stand in front of you tonight, without AALEAD no one would believe in me and my abilities and gave me the resources, guidance, love, encouragement, and mentoring.” Yuanlong expressed his feelings about AALEAD proclaiming, “AALEAD is a second family and they have been there for me when my family hasn’t be able to and provided me with so many great opportunities.”

The night could not have been a success without the incredible sponsors; Presenting Sponsor: The Heinz and Liselotte Nehring Stiftung/Foundation & Dr. Yang-Ro Yoon; Silver Sponsors: AT&T and Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center; and Bronze Sponsors: Ampcus Inc., Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Charles Schwab & Co, Comcast, Jim & Mai Abdo, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Inc., The MacNamara, Dill, Tran & Krashin Group, Minh Le and Chris Dymond, Renner & Company, Simon Computing, Siu’s Asian Bistro, Sue Graham, and Virginia Cheung & Jeff Neeley.

In her remarks as a Presenting Sponsor, Dr. Yoon said, “AALEAD is about diversity but also about unity. We AALEAD support low income underserved Asian American youths for them to be successful in their life. Empowered, self-confident and feeling comfortable with their own identity, our AALEAD youths will then be open-minded, tolerant and generous to others ...”

“The powerful evening was a wonderful trip down memory lane, but also a reminder that the work of AALEAD is important, impactful, and needed in the DC metro area where 16,000 low-income APA youth reside,” said Executive Director, Neel Saxena. He noted that, “AALEAD’s longevity is because of the AALEAD family that is about supporting and believing in each other whether it’s supporting the Board in putting on the Gala or supporting a staff with a challenging day or supporting a youth with college admissions.”

The AALEAD Family thanks all who came and have supported youth through the years and welcome all the new supporters, we look forward to continuing to grow AALEAD’s impact and support youth to thrive.

AALEAD supports low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities through after school, summer, and mentoring programs.

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