Federal Asian Pacific American Council
Promoting equal opportunity

April 2017

President's Message

Volunteerism is the strong force that powers FAPAC. FAPAC is celebrating its 32nd year this year and has a long and rich history of accomplishment. Volunteers are essential to the successful operation of the organization at all levels — from the National Board of Directors and National Board of Operations, which sets the direction for FAPAC, to the local chapters’ meetings.

We can't overstate the importance of continued volunteer participation to the success of FAPAC.

The upcoming National Leadership Training Program is a great way for you to join and volunteer to develop new skills, network, meet the people that can help you with your career, and achieve a sense of accomplishment in a job well done as a volunteer.

I hope you join us, participate and be part of our premier organization. We invite you to get involved in whichever area interests you, big or small. And, bring along a friend — we can always use the help. Please reach out by going to www.fapac.org and checking out our opportunities.

Olivia Adrian
FAPAC President

2016 Career Development Program honors graduates

In a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., on February 8, FAPAC acknowledged mentees and mentors from across the federal government for completing the requirements of the CDP.

Many thanks to program co-chairs Aurea Franklin and Sara Kaul for leading the most successful CDP yet — over 70 percent of the program’s participants graduated, the highest total yet in CDP history. At the ceremony, Aurea chronicled the CDP’s humble beginnings in 2012 to the highly regarded program it is today — the call for the last class received over 90 applications for 20 spots.

Kelly Kim was named Mentee of the Year, and David J. Thomas and George Eisenbach were named Mentor of the Year. For a full list of award winners and graduates, visit www.fapac.org/news.

Malcom Shorter, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA, and Erick Soriano, Executive Director, Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors, were the event’s keynote speakers and shared their personal career stories and words of inspiration with ceremony attendees.

FAPAC also deeply appreciates the contributions of the mentors, who contributed many hours of their time to guide CDP participants through the 6-month program.

The 2017 CDP class will kickoff its program on April 21 at the Department of Interior.
Meet FAPAC’s Mentee of the Year, Kelly Kim

FAPAC’s Career Development Program recently named the Department of the Interior’s Kelly Kim Mentee of the Year. In addition to this honor, Kelly is the Program Committee chair and co-chair of the 2017 Career Development Program committee. One of FAPAC’s rising stars, Kelly’s commitment to public service began in her hometown, La Habra, California, and has continued in Washington, D.C. She’s now a human capital communications specialist with the DOI’s Office of the Secretary’s Office of Human Resources.

What was your career path before joining the federal government?
My career began in the non-profit sector with the American Cancer Society and the Korean American Coalition. During college, I worked for the Community Services Division for the City of La Habra and interned with my local representative, Congressman Ed Royce. In the summer of 2011, I interned with the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) to support their youth and volunteer programs. My summer internship led to a yearlong AmeriCorps fellowship with the same office, and I was then hired as a program analyst to establish a national youth and volunteer program within OSMRE.

How did you get to know your mentor, and how did your relationship evolve?
My mentor [David J. Thomas Sr. of the Department of Veterans Affairs] and I met monthly for happy hour outside of our offices. My mentor’s willingness to meet outside of his normal work hours demonstrated his commitment to the program and me. Although my mentor had a very different background than mine, it was refreshing to hear new insights and to share my perspectives with him as a millennial in the federal government.

Explain a situation or instance when you felt you needed your mentor’s guidance, and how your mentor came through for you.
During the CDP, I accepted a new position within my agency and was nervous about telling my supervisor. I was in the middle of several projects, and it didn’t seem like a “good time” to leave my bureau. My mentor helped prepare me for the meeting and leave on good terms.

2017 National Leadership Training Program taking shape
Planning for the 2017 National Leadership Training Program is well underway. This year’s program will take place May 15-18 in Rockville, Md. The overarching theme of the conference is Unite Our Voices By Speaking Together.

Tentative workshops and sessions include:
- Managing Your Career and Moving Up in the Federal Government
- What Does It Take to be a Leader?
- SES pathway: Getting Prepared, Getting In, and Getting Ahead
- Achieving a Model EEO Program
- Emotional Intelligence

Northern California FAPAC chapter chartered
FAPAC formally chartered its Northern California (NORCAL) Chapter in January 2017. Founded by employees from several agencies in the Bay Area, efforts are now underway to move forward with outreach initiatives networking and liaison opportunities with federal government, AAPI nonprofits and local universities. FAPAC NORCAL’s long-term goals include generating interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and increasing membership to develop professional development opportunities for federal employees and military personnel in the Bay Area.

Congratulations to Chapter President Robert Baggett and Region 4 Director Rene Lau for supporting FAPAC and the National Chapter Committee in this effort!