

Fahmida Chhipa

BIOGRAPHY



Ms. Fahmida Chhipa is currently an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist at the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). She manages all Special Emphasis Programs (SEP) within NASS and guides the SEP Managers in their collateral duties. She is also on the Compliance Review Team and conducts Civil Rights Assistant Staff Visits within her agency's headquarters and regions. Prior to the EEO Specialist position, Ms. Chhipa was a Secretary at NASS volunteering in activities that she felt most passionate about, cultural awareness and recruitment and advancement of the underrepresented groups in the federal government. This passion led her to a non-profit organization called the Federal Asian Pacific American Council (FAPAC), which promotes equal opportunity and cultural diversity for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs) within the Federal and DC governments, and it encourages the participation and advancement of AANHPIs in the Government workforce. She now serves as the Vice President for this organization.

Since joining FAPAC in 2012, Ms. Chhipa has served as the President of FAPAC-USDA Chapter, two terms as the Executive Secretary of FAPAC National, and one term as the Vice President of Operations. For many years, Ms. Chhipa has been serving on the Iftar Planning Committee with the Office of the Secretary, represents FAPAC for the White House Initiative for AANHPIs, and chaired various planning committees at USDA. Additionally, Ms. Chhipa contributes to the USDA's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, (FEVS), and Employee Health & Wellness Working Groups. In her 16 years of service with the Department of Agriculture, Ms. Chhipa has taken a keen interest in actively participating in AANHPI programs and activities. At the age of 25, Ms. Chhipa became a weekend school Administrator at her local mosque for the next 16 years, during which she was elected as one of their Board of Directors, the youngest to have served in that capacity there. Her desire to contribute to her community has driven her to be an active member of various organizations over the past 25 years.

Ms. Chhipa studied Biology at George Mason University, but interestingly, life situations have landed her in the Civil Rights arena. She has no regrets in life and enjoys working in the field where she can always be helping others. Ms. Chhipa has received her Diversity and Inclusion Certification from eCornell University, Workplace Mediation Certificate from The Alternative Dispute Resolution Academy, and Special Emphasis Program Manager Certification from the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. She has also completed numerous courses on Leadership, Organizational Development, and EEO to include MD-715 and Barrier Analysis. Ms. Chhipa is the recipient of the 2015 FAPAC Outstanding Individual Leadership Award.

Ms. Chhipa is the Lifetime Member for both, the Federal Asian Pacific American Council and Federally Employed Women. Born in India and raised in Northern Virginia where she has lived for over 40 years, Ms. Chhipa is happily married and a proud mother of three adult boys.

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LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Ms. Chhipa's diverse leadership involvements, partially identified below, extend from her home to work to organizations such as the FAPAC.

- 2020-Current: Vice President, FAPAC-National
- 2018-2020: Vice President of Operations, FAPAC-National
- 2014-2018: Executive Secretary, FAPAC-National
- 2018-Current: Immediate Past President of FAPAC-USDA Chapter
- 2016-2018: President of FAPAC-USDA Chapter
- 2012-2014: Treasurer of FAPAC-USDA Chapter
- 2012-Current: FAPAC-National Conference Planning Committee
- 2012-2015: FAPAC Representative for the White House Initiative-AAPI at USDA
- 2011-2014: Special Emphasis Program Manager for AAPI at USDA/NASS
- 2013,2019: Chair, Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month Cultural Exchange Program
- 2010-2016: USDA AAPI Heritage Month Observance Planning Committee
- 2010-Current: Vital role in USDA Office of the Secretary's Iftar Planning Committee
- 2011-2012: Chair, Asian Pacific Heritage Month Program at USDA/NASS
- 2008-2010: Chair, Civil Rights Advisory Committee at USDA/NASS
- 2007-2013: Executive Secretary of Board of Director of local mosque, Islamic Community Center of Northern Virginia (ICCNOV)
- 1998-2014: Sunday School Administrator and activity coordinator, ICCNOV