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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

ADVANCING A RACIAL EQUITY AGENDA: **FORGING A NEW PATH FOR AAPIs**

VIRTUAL SUMMIT • APRIL 15, 2021 • 10AM–3PM, PST



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Program

10:00 AM to 10:15 AM	Welcome Back and Welcome!	Abe Ali, President, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Rowena Tomaneng, EdD, Vice President, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education, and 2021 Conference Chair
10:15 AM to 10:45 AM	Opening Keynote	GT Reyes, PhD, Associate Professor, CSU Eastbay, School of Education
10:55 AM to 12:00 PM	Educational Equity for AAPI Students	Pam Eddinger, PhD, <i>President</i> of the Bunker Hill Community College in Massachusetts Manu Aluli Meyer, EdD, Konohiki for Kūlana o Kapolei (A Hawaiian Place of Learning at University of Hawai'i–West O'ahu) Mike Hoa Nguyen, PhD, Assistant Professor of Higher Education at the University of Denver's Morgridge College of Education and faculty affiliate at the Scrivner Institute for Public Policy and the Interdisciplinary Research Institute for the Study of (In) Equality (IRISE). Moderated by: Dr. Pat Neilson, APAHE Board Member
12:00 PM to 12:30 PM	On your own lunch/necessity break	
12:30 PM to 1:40 PM	AAPI Leaders on US Politics and Future of Our Democracy	Jason Tengco, Former AAPI Outreach Lead, Biden-Harris Transition Team Quyen Dinh, Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) Noël Harmon, President and Executive Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Scholars (APIA Scholars) Nancy Yap, Executive Director of the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE) <i>Moderated by: Dr. Frank Chong, APAHE Board Member</i>
1:50 PM to 2:50 PM	AAPI Leaders on COVID-19 and Racial Reckoning	Russell Jeung, PhD, Co-Founder of Stop AAPI Hate, Professor, San Francisco State University Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, EdD, President, South Seattle College, WA Thúy Thị Nguyễn, JD., President, Foothill College, CA <i>Moderated by: Dr. Eric Ramones, APAHE Summit Planning Committee member</i>
2:50 PM to 3:00 PM	Closing Comments and Acknowledgements	Abe Ali, President, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education Wyman Fong, Board Member, Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education

COLLABORATIONS



APAHE SUMMIT SPEAKERS

Quyen Dinh



[Quyen Dinh](#) is the Executive Director of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). SEARAC represents the largest refugee community ever resettled in America as a civil rights organization and works to empower Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese American communities to create a socially just and equitable society through policy advocacy, advocacy capacity building, community engagement, and mobilization.

As Executive Director, Quyen is a leading voice for Southeast Asian Americans on key civil rights issues including education, immigration, criminal justice, health, and aging. Quyen's expertise has appeared in [American Radio Works](#), [NBC](#), [Public Radio International](#), and [Voice of America](#). Under Quyen's leadership, SEARAC has authored national legislation and passed California legislation calling for transparent, disaggregated data for the Asian American community. Quyen extends SEARAC's presence in other social justice movements through leadership roles with the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), Detention Watch Network (DWN), the Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC), and RISE for Boys and Men of Color. Prior to SEARAC, she built lasting infrastructure for the International Children Assistance Network (ICAN) in San Jose, California serving Vietnamese immigrant parents, grandparents, and youth.

Born to Vietnamese refugees, Quyen identifies as second-generation Vietnamese American. She holds a Masters of Public Policy from the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of California, Berkeley. Quyen was born in New Orleans, LA, and grew up throughout California. She and her husband are celebrating new parenthood with their son in Virginia.

Pam Eddinger, PhD



Pam Eddinger is president of Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC), the largest of 15 community colleges in Massachusetts. Dr. Eddinger began her tenure at BHCC in 2013 and previously served as president of Moorpark College in Southern California from 2008.

Dr. Eddinger's service in the Community College movement spans more than 25 years, with senior posts in academics and student affairs, communications and policy, and executive leadership. Dr. Eddinger serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE), WGBH Boston, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the Boston Foundation (TBF), the Massachusetts Workforce Development Board, the Boston Private Industry Council, Achieving the Dream (ATD), the Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy, and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AACU). Dr. Eddinger was honored in 2016 by the Obama White House as a Champion of Change. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from Barnard College and her master's and doctorate in Japanese Literature from Columbia University.

Noël Harmon



Noël Harmon is President and Executive Director of Asian Pacific Islander American Scholars, formerly, the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund. She joined the organization in June 2018. Harmon comes to APIA Scholars from Say Yes to Education, where she was Senior Vice President for Strategic Partnerships.

Harmon has also held positions at the Brookings Institution where she was the Associate Director of the Global Cities Initiatives, a joint project of Brookings and JPMorgan Chase, and at CEOS for Cities, where she was the Chief Program Officer and National Director of the Talent Dividend. She led the National Talent Dividend Network and

Prize, a joint initiative of Living Cities and CEOs for Cities, to foster post-secondary attainment, through cross-sector collaboration among more than 60 network cities. She also served as a senior research analyst at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) where she managed several long-term national initiatives.

Harmon spent the first decade of her career in direct service to students, working in administration at post-secondary institutions including Hofstra University, University of Michigan, Western Illinois University, and four years in Athletic Student Services at the University of Iowa.

Harmon holds a PhD in Higher Education and a BA in English from the University of Iowa, and a MA in Student Affairs Administration from Ball State University.

Manu Aluli Meyer, EdD



Manulani Aluli Meyer is the fifth daughter of Emma Aluli and Harry Meyer. The Aluli ohana is a large and diverse group of scholar-activists devoted to Hawaiian education, justice, land reclamation, law, health, cultural revitalization, Arts, prison reform, transformational economics, food sovereignty, Hawaiian philosophy and most of all, music. Manu works in the field of indigenous epistemology and its role in world-wide awakening.

Professor Aluli-Meyer obtained her doctorate from Harvard (Ed.D. 1998) by studying Hawaiian epistemology via language, history, and the clear insights of beloved Hawaiian mentors. She has published on the topic of native intelligence and its synergistic linkages to post-quantum sciences, simultaneity, spirituality, whole thinking, and to liberating evaluation and reflective pedagogy. Manu's background is in wilderness education and experiential learning within cultural settings.

She has been an Instructor for Outward Bound and Hawaii Bound schools, along with coaching at high school and national levels in volleyball, track/field, and Special Olympics.

Manu was an Associate Professor of Education at UH Hilo. She also worked five years at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, the largest Maori university in New Zealand, and created their first Masters of Applied Indigenous Knowledge, He Waka Hiringa. She is currently working at UH West Oahu.

Mike Hoa Nguyen, PhD



Dr. Mike Hoa Nguyen is assistant professor at the University of Denver's [Morgridge College of Education](#) and faculty affiliate at the [Scrivner Institute for Public Policy](#) and the [Interdisciplinary Research Institute for the Study of \(In\)Equality \(IRISE\)](#). His research examines the benefits and consequences of public policy instruments in expanding or constraining the operations of colleges and universities, with a specific focus on federal diversity initiatives. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Nguyen has extensive professional experience with federal policy, having served as a senior staff member in the Office of US Congressman Michael M. Honda. He currently serves as a Commissioner on the [Denver Asian American and Pacific Islander Commission](#), a member of the Board of Directors for the [Southeast Asia Resource Action Center \(SEARAC\)](#), and continues to volunteer and provide research consulting for education and civil rights organizations. Most recently, Dr. Nguyen was a lead author on an amicus curiae brief on behalf of [678 social scientists](#) in *SFFA v. Harvard*, which was cited by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in their [opinion](#). He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley and his graduate education at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Russell Jeung, PhD



Dr. Jeung is the co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate, Professor, San Francisco State University, CA. Dr. Jeung received a BA in Human Biology and a MA in Education from Stanford University. After working in China and in the Mayor's Office of San Francisco, he obtained his PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley in 2000. After teaching at Foothill College for two years, he came to San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department in 2002.

In addition, he has co-produced with Valerie Soe the documentary, *The Oak Park Story* (2010), about a landmark housing lawsuit involving his fellow Cambodian and Latino tenants.

His research interests include the Sociology of Race, the Sociology of Religion, and Social Movements. Dr. Jeung is extensively engaged with his students in conducting community-based, participatory research with Asian

American communities. In 2020, Dr. Jeung launched Stop AAPI Hate, a project of Chinese for Affirmative Action, the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council, and SF State Asian American Studies. It tracks Covid-19 related discrimination.

Thuy Thi Nguyen



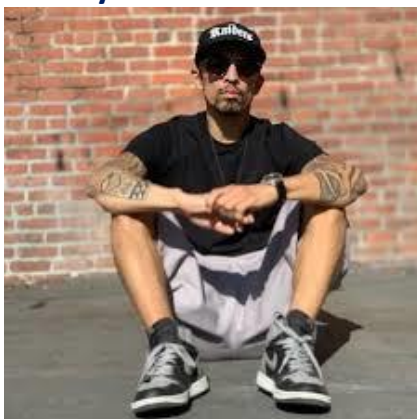
Thuy Thi Nguyen (Thúy Thị Nguyễn) serves as the seventh President of Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California, a position she has held since July 2016. Nguyen is the first Vietnamese American college president in the country. Prior to her arrival at Foothill, Nguyen served as interim general counsel for the California Community College's Chancellor's Office. As overseer of equal employment opportunity plans for 72 community college districts and 113 colleges, she led the move to an innovative funding approach that encourages community colleges to assess and strengthen their efforts in equal employment opportunity.

When she was 3, Nguyen and her family joined the wave of "boat people" who fled Vietnam after the end of the war. Nguyen co-published a book, "25 Vietnamese Americans in 25 Years," showcasing the contributions of 25 distinguished Vietnamese Americans to mark the anniversary of the fall of Saigon. The book is archived in the Library of Congress and available at the Viet Museum in San Jose and many public and university libraries across the country.

Nguyen earned her B.A. in Philosophy from Yale University and her Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law,

In 2019, Nguyen was named "100 Women of Influence" by Silicon Valley Business Journal and awarded Assembly Member Evan Low's "Leadership in Public Service" award for Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Also in 2019, she was named one of the top 15 community college presidents in the country to follow on Twitter.

GT Reyes



A settler on Huichin Oholone ancestral land, aka East Oakland, Dr. G.T. Reyes (Taga-Ilog & Kapampangan) is a community-engaged scholar-artist-organizer-PRAXISioner. His work is grounded in the empowerment of young folks, teachers, school leaders, and cultural workers to radically imagine and build capacity to transform their own realities while both excavating and honoring their ancestral ways of being and becoming. As an Assistant Professor in the Educational Leadership for Social Justice Ed.D. program and Preliminary Administrative Credential Services

program at California State University, East Bay, he is an active part of cultivating programs that have liberatory potential and power. His approaches to educational leadership development, research, and professional learning are rooted in critical, socio-cultural, & ethnic studies discourses that forefront culturally sustaining and radical healing pedagogies while also decentering whiteness and coloniality.

In addition to his work at CSUEB, he coaches school leaders and is also a founding school designer and Board member for the forthcoming Homies Empowerment Community High School for Oakland Success (HECHOS), which aims to welcome "home" formerly incarcerated, gang-impacted/involved, and school-marginalized youth to invoke and reframe the Warrior, Scholar, Hustler, and Healer within and toward a vision of emancipation and self-determination. He completed his Post Doctoral Fellowship from Stanford University and his Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, Society, and Culture in Education at the University of California at Berkeley.

Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap



Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap became South Seattle College's seventh president in July 2018. Rosie has been serving the students and community of colleagues at South since 2000, when she started as a Student Success Specialist in the TRiO Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound programs, working with first generation college-bound youth in the area. Since then, Rosie has maintained her focus on serving underrepresented students and increasing the college's capacity to support diverse populations through her leadership work in Outreach, Advising, and various federal grants.

In addition to her leadership at South and locally, Rosie has been a leader on a statewide level serving on the executive committee of the Washington State Student Services Commission, where she has emphasized a focus on equity across our statewide system by leading statewide efforts supporting DREAMer students, and other efforts to strengthen equity approaches in student affairs. Nationally, Rosie is also recognized for her leadership and commitment to equity, having been invited to speak on numerous occasions about her experiences in Guided Pathways leadership and weaving equity into that work, as well as about her experiences as a woman of color in higher education leadership.

Jason Tengco



Jason Tengco brings over a decade of experience in public service and community organizing working for the White House, Congress, presidential campaigns, and non-profit organizations. He recently served as the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Outreach Lead for the Biden-Harris Transition Team and as the Chief of Staff for the campaign's Coalitions Department. Prior to that, he served as Executive Director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations, National AAPI Outreach Director for Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign, and Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs.

Throughout his career, Jason has participated in fellowships with the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies in the office of former Congressman Mike Honda, Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute, LGBTQ Victory Institute, Filipino Young Leaders Program, New Leaders Council, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Center for Progressive Leadership, and Public Policy and International Affairs Program. Born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, Jason has a B.A. in Political Science from UCLA and a Master's in Public Affairs from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy.

Nancy Yap



Nancy Yap is the Executive Director of the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE), a nonprofit organization that is committed to advancing the political and civic engagement of leaders in the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community.

Previously, she was the Vice President of Development at LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics), where she was responsible for fundraising, strategic partnerships, program development, curriculum design, and training. She also owned her own artist management business for over ten years, representing spoken word and hip-hop artists, including artists from the 2003 Tony Award winning "Russell Simmons Presents Def Poetry Jam on Broadway."

In addition to her work at CAUSE, she is the President of the Arts District Little Tokyo Neighborhood Council and is the Co-Founder of two programs in Little Tokyo. In 2020, Community Feeding Community fed over \$10,000 people and invested \$200,000 in Little Tokyo small businesses and Haunted Little Tokyo brought thousands of people to the neighborhood for socially distant Halloween festivities.

OUR MODERATORS

Frank Chong



Dr. Chong has been Superintendent/President of Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC). Prior to joining SRJC, Dr. Chong served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges at the United States Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Among his key responsibilities at the Department of Education were shaping President Barack Obama's community college agenda, providing leadership in the development of the trade adjustment assistance act, and developing policies related to the President's college completion goal.

From 2006 to 2009, he was President of Laney College in Oakland, and served as President of Mission College in Santa Clara from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Chong was Dean of Student Affairs at San Francisco City College from 1993 to 2003. Frank also served as Special Assistant to Willie Brown, Speaker of the California Assembly, from 1987 to 1991, and in that position created legislation in higher education, mental health, small and minority business affairs and local government. Chong was a member of both the San Francisco Children and Families Commission and San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and was elected to the San Francisco Board of Education in 1998.

He is an experienced administrator of non-profit organizations, and worked in Oakland as Director of Special Services for the Asian Community Mental Health Services and Executive Director of Asian Manpower Services.

Patricia Akemi Neilson



Dr. Neilson previously served as the founding director of the Asian American Student Success Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston funded by the Department of Education, Title III, Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant. Prior to that appointment, Dr. Neilson was the director of the Center for Collaborative Leadership in the College of Management at UMass Boston. She also served as an academic dean at North Shore Community College in Danvers, Massachusetts. She retired from her many years in higher education in the fall of 2019 and continues to champion efforts for AANAPISIs.

Her research interest is in the underrepresentation of Asian American senior administrators in higher education. Dr. Neilson serves on the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) board of directors and mentors promising APAs. As part of the pipeline effort, has served as a faculty member in the Leadership Development Program in Higher Education (LDPHE).

Eric Ramones



Dr. Ramones currently serves as Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources for the West Valley-Mission Community College District. Eric recently was Associate Vice President, Human Resources and Labor Relations for the Gavilan Joint Community College District, in Gilroy, California. He has served in this leadership role for the past nine years.

Prior to Gavilan College, Dr. Ramones served the community of San Jose for six years as the Human Resources Manager and Internal Affairs Officer of the San Jose Fire Department. Since 2010, he has also taught as an adjunct lecturer in the Master's in Public Administration program at San Jose State University.

Dr. Ramones holds a bachelor of arts in sociology with a psychology minor from Loyola Marymount University, a master of public administration from San Jose State University, and a doctor of education in organizational leadership, from Brandman University

