



# 2024 ACELING IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ASIAN CORPORATE AND ENTREPRENEUR LEADERS



***RISE***  
***LEAD***  
***SOAR***

**Aug 23- 24, 2024**

Phoenix, Arizona  
[www.aceleaders.org](http://www.aceleaders.org)



Delivering water and power®

# UPHOLDING CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, **TOGETHER.**

SRP is committed to promoting diverse perspectives and civic engagement in order to make a positive impact in the community. That's why we support organizations like Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders that develop and foster initiatives that enrich life for us all.

[srp.net/community-support](http://srp.net/community-support)





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>WELCOME</b>	3-12
<b>GUIDE</b>	13
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	14-16
<b>EMCEES</b>	17
<b>FRIDAY WELCOME RECEPTION / EVENTS</b>	18-34
<b>SATURDAY WELCOME RECEPTION / EVENTS</b>	35-45
<b>SATURDAY NIGHT GALA</b>	46
<b>ABOUT US</b>	47
<b>CORPORATE PARTNERS</b>	48
<b>COMMUNITY PARTNERS</b>	49



# **Fry's Food Stores is Proud to Support Asian Corporate and Entrepreneur Leaders**

Fry's intentionally pursues a diverse and inclusive workplace that reflects the communities we serve, which is why we're honored to be named by Newsweek as one of "America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity" for 2024.





# WELCOME



August 23, 2024

Dear Sponsors, Partners, Members, and Colleagues,

Welcome to Arizona for our 11th Annual ACELing In Leadership Conference! This year, we proudly celebrate 18 years of empowering the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community. Since our founding, ACEL has remained dedicated to fostering leadership, mentorship, and community service across generations.

Our journey has brought us to new heights, with ACEL now active in Arizona, Colorado, Wisconsin, Nevada, and California. This growth reflects our commitment to addressing the unique challenges and opportunities within the AANHPI community, and it is a direct result of the unwavering support from our board members, volunteers, and partners.

This conference is a testament to our shared mission of nurturing leaders at every stage of life. We hope it equips you with valuable insights and inspires you to create positive change within your communities. As we look back on 18 years of impact, we also look forward to the future, knowing that together we can achieve even greater things.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in ACEL's journey.

Warm regards,

*Jason C. Wong*

Jason Wong  
Founder & CEO

# Mesa Police Department

Join the Team.  
Serve the Community.  
Make a Difference.

**THE  
MESA  
WAY**



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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 23, 2024



I extend my best wishes to all those attending the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders (ACEL) 2024 ACELing in Leadership Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Entrepreneurs are the engines of our economy, the heart and soul of our communities, and the glue that holds our Nation together. Their spirit of innovation and ingenuity is an essential part of the American story—and it is one that has been carried forward by generations of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) entrepreneurs, including many gathered for the ACELing in Leadership Conference. Your hard work, along with the critical leadership and support of organizations like ACEL, has helped not only bring diverse perspectives and experiences to our workforce but also pushed our economy to be stronger and more competitive.

Each of you embodies a fundamental truth: There is no singular AA and NHPI identity. Rather, it is the diversity of those cultures and the breadth of your accomplishments—from innovating new technologies to building successful and bold businesses—that have been woven into the very fabric of America. You are dreamers, doers, innovators, and job creators. And in your hope, grit, and drive, you represent the boundless possibilities of our Nation—reminding us all that there is truly nothing beyond our capacity when we work together.

As you join one another for this year's ACELing in Leadership Conference, I hope you are inspired by the remarkable achievements and aspirations of your colleagues. Hardworking people like you are a big part of the reason I've never been more optimistic about the future of America.



**SECRETARY OF LABOR**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210**

August 23, 2024

Congratulations to the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders (ACEL) on your 2024 ACELing in Leadership Conference. This gathering demonstrates the determination, resilience, ingenuity, and hard work of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA and NHPI) communities.

When President Biden nominated me to be part of his cabinet, he called me the American Dream. But he wasn't just talking about me. He was talking about all of us as a community. Whether you are an immigrant, the son or daughter of immigrants, or the great-great-grandchild of immigrants, we are a community that has crossed oceans and continents for a chance at a better life. If you are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, your ancestors helped to shape the country we all call home. Our community built this country from its rails and restaurants to its factories and fields. And as business leaders, you are job creators and engines of our economy. Your voice at the table, in board rooms and in C-suites, paves the way for our community to be truly represented. Whether you are just beginning your entrepreneurial journey or are celebrating decades of hard work, you are the American Dream.

Like many of you, my parents ran small businesses when I was growing up, including a laundromat. This laundromat was an intergenerational project for my family. From watching my grandparents and my parents, I learned invaluable lessons about dedication, innovation, and the entrepreneurial spirit. I saw their courage to take risks and determination to overcome challenges.

ACEL is an important part of developing AA and NHPI leadership in business, creating opportunities for partnership, mentorship and friendship, pioneering investments in your workers, and strengthening economies across our country. I hope that as you come together during your conference, you celebrate the fruits of your work and take pride in all you've accomplished. Thank you for what you do, and I wish you all an inspiring and successful conference.

Sincerely,



JULIE A. SU  
Acting Secretary of Labor







KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Greetings!

I am honored to welcome you to Arizona for the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders (ACEL) 2024 National Leadership Conference. The ACEL provides opportunities for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI) to work together to promote leadership in careers, communities, and local government.

The State of Arizona recognizes and honors the significant contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in our state and across our nation in numerous areas, including entrepreneurship and innovation in business, science, technology, medicine, agriculture, education, the arts, and public service.

Arizona is a place of opportunity. We celebrate diversity and inclusion. By developing a more diverse generation of business leaders and promoting professional opportunities, cultural awareness, and community involvement for AA and NHPI entrepreneurs, ACEL is supporting my vision of an Arizona for Everyone.

I wish ACEL continued success and hope you have a great conference.

Sincerely,

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona



KYRSTEN SINEMA  
ARIZONA

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August 23, 2024

### *In Honor of the 2024 ACELing In Leadership Conference*

Mr. Wong and Conference Attendees,

Congratulations on the 2024 ACELing In Leadership Conference. ACEL's leadership within the corporate community has served the mission of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) in incredible ways. This conference emphasizes your dedication to bettering the lives of the AAPI community and creating a lasting impact through networking, learning, and inspiration.

It is a privilege to extend my congratulations to you on this important day. I am honored to be a voice for the ACEL and its members in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator





TED W. LIEU  
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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1600 ROSECRANS AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR  
MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266  
(310) 321-7664

August 24, 2024



Dear Friends,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2024 *ACEling in Leadership Conference* hosted by the Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders (ACEL) organization.

For 18 years, the ACEL has provided an opportunity for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) professionals to work together to enhance AAPI leadership within our communities and local governments. The organization is committed to providing a variety of professional development programs designed to support career advancement and empower its members. This conference offers a valuable opportunity for individuals to develop professional networking skills and fosters the development of diverse leadership and AAPI representation through essential mentorship programs.

Congratulations to all those participating and my best wishes for a successful conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted W. Lieu".

Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

**GREG STANTON**  
ARIZONA'S FOURTH DISTRICT

VICE RANKING MEMBER  
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AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
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STANTON.HOUSE.GOV

August 23, 2024

Greetings!

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 2024 ACELing In Leadership Conference. I hope you all make the most of your time here in Arizona. The work ACEL does in our state and around the country continues to empower Asian American and Pacific Islander professionals by providing all with the necessary resources to become accomplished leaders in our communities. I encourage each of you to make the most of the professional and personal opportunities offered throughout the conference.

Year after year, ACEL uplifts Arizonans who work hard to create a more prosperous and welcoming community for all. This year's Impact Awardees are some of the best leaders in Arizona – ranging from careers in hard-hitting reporting, well-accomplished legal professionals, innovative healthcare leaders, and business professionals who provide service to vulnerable communities around the world. This year's theme – Rise, Lead, and Soar, encapsulates the spirit of the graduating Cohort 27, who I know have been trained to lead thanks to the dedicated work of their mentors. These relationships will not end after this weekend, and I hope you continue to work with your mentors to continue learning and growing as you continue to succeed. Congratulations to everyone, and I cannot wait to see what you do next.

Thank you to Jason Wong and to his team of leaders and mentors who give hours of their time in support of ACEL's longstanding commitment to stewardship, activism, and excellence. Your extraordinary efforts have made this year's conference a success, and I hope you depart with the inspiration and motivation to continue to make a positive difference in your communities and around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



RUBEN GALLEGO  
3RD DISTRICT, ARIZONA  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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August 23, 2024

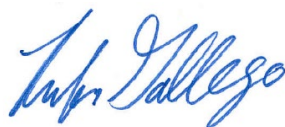
Dear friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2024 ACELing In Leadership Conference in Arizona. Your dedication to strengthening Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leadership in local communities, governments, and workforces is commendable.

The Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders (ACEL) serve a vital mission in advancing the careers and livelihoods of AAPI individuals and communities nationwide. I want to express my appreciation for the efforts of ACEL President, Jason C. Wong, and ACEL's Board of Directors in empowering AAPI communities, particularly through this conference. The array of speakers and programs scheduled for the event promises to be inspiring.

I wish you all a successful conference and thank you for contributing to the betterment of Arizona. It is an honor to have you in the congressional district I proudly represent. I hope you will enjoy all that Phoenix and Arizona have to offer!

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS





**COLORADO**  
Governor Jared Polis

August 23, 2024

Greetings!

As the Governor of the State of Colorado, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to the 2024 ACEling In Leadership Conference and to support this event which will bring empowerment to the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

I hope that you are eager to integrate the valuable insights and knowledge gained from this conference into your roles as entrepreneurs, professionals, and public advocates. Your dedicated efforts in providing training, resources, and mentorship to the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander community are truly commendable. The positive impact on Denver's AANHPI community with your Denver Chapter (ACEL - Denver) is both profound and far-reaching.

Again, it is my earnest wish that your conference is successful and productive, I hope you have an outstanding event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis  
Governor

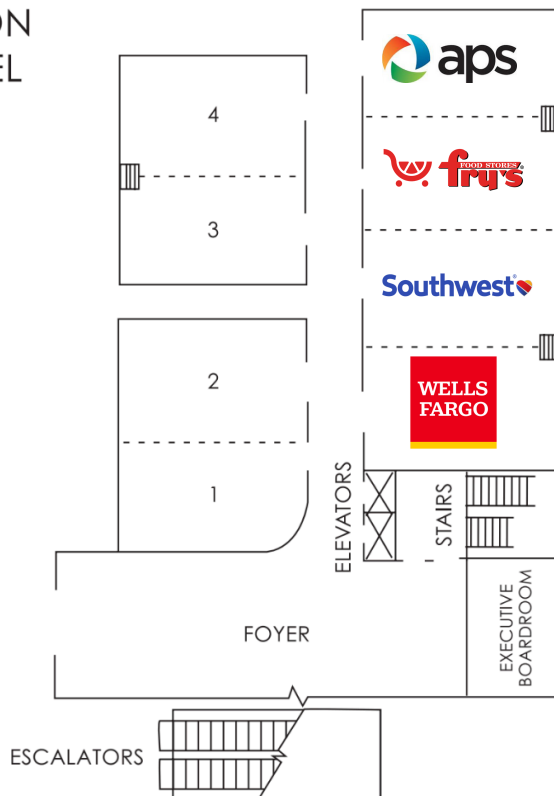




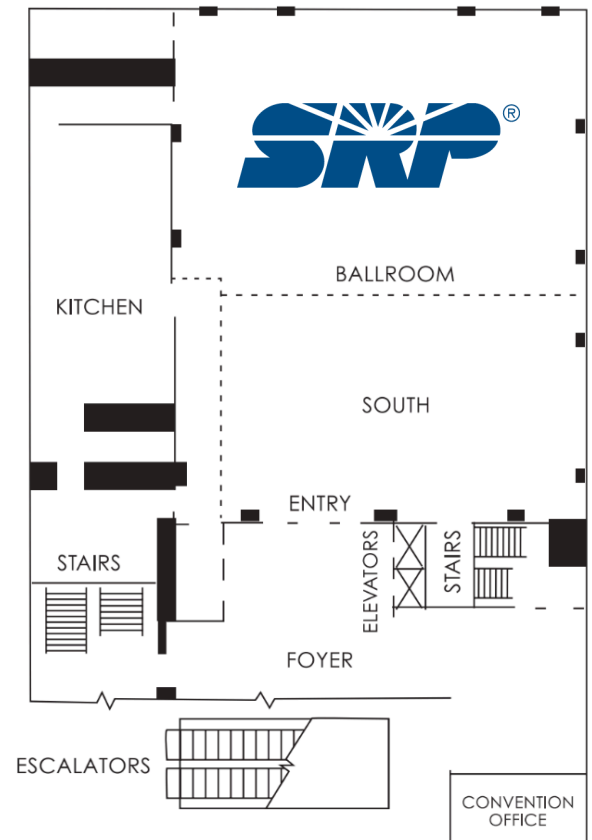
## 2024 ACEling in Leadership Conference Guide

- A TRACK: Corporate Leadership - Wells Fargo Room
- B TRACK: Entrepreneurial Leadership - Southwest Airline Room
- C TRACK: Community Leadership - Fry's Food Stores Room

SALON  
LEVEL



Second Floor



Third Floor

# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 - 9:00 am	<b>Registration, Coffee/Tea Kickoff Session</b> Speaker: Daniela Thao, Life Coach & 2022 Miss Minnesota Global USA!	Salt River Project Room
9:00 - 9:20 am	<b>Networking Break</b>	
9:20 - 10:35 am	<b>1A: AZ Asian ERG Leadership Roundtable (Invitation Only)</b>	Wells Fargo
	<b>1B: AI and the Future of Work</b> Moderator: Khanh Vu, SASE Panelists: Amy Wang, Gnaw-AI Consulting; Danh Truong, Proper Villains, LLC; Rebecca Clyde, Botco.ai	Southwest Airlines
	<b>1C: How to Say What You Really Mean: Get Confident and Competent with Conflict</b> Van Lai-DuMone, worksmART advantage	Fry's Food Stores
10:35 - 10:55 am	Networking Break	
10:55 - 12:10 pm	<b>2A: Building Inclusive Workplaces: Strategies for Effective Diversity Management</b> Moderator: Essen Otu, SRP Panelists: Alan Park, Mesa PD; Melanie Stuckenberg, APS; Cindi Wong, General Dynamics; Lisa Wong, BMO Harris	Wells Fargo
	<b>2B: Holy Shitake! A Wok Star is Born</b> Katie Chin, Wok Star Productions	Southwest Airlines
	<b>2C: Think Inside the Box, Reinvent Wheels, and Find Joy in Unlevel Playing Field</b> Bill Imada, IW Group	Fry's Food Stores
12:10 - 12:30 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
12:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch Speakers: Adam King + Sam Hyun, 1587 Sneakers</b> Moderator: Bill Imada, IW Group	Salt River Project Room
1:30 - 1:50 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
1:50 - 3:05 pm	<b>3A: Leading or Being Led In An Inclusive Environment</b> Kevin Bradley, HUB International	Wells Fargo
	<b>3B: Strategies for AAPI Leadership Advancement in Healthcare</b> Moderator: Dr. Tony Lee, OrthoArizona Panelists: Dr. Vivienne Hau, Annie Rose Manuel, Dr. Vershalee Shukla and Dr. Christopher Yeung	Southwest Airlines
	<b>3C: Resilience and Mindset Strategies for Entrepreneurs</b> Rodney Hu, Yucca Tap Room; Jean Seo, Evolve Skincare	Fry's Food Stores

# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 23rd

Time	Activity	Location
3:05 - 3:25 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
3:25 - 4:40 pm	<b>4A: Harnessing the Power of ERGS: Strategies for Amplifying Voices and Driving Change</b> Moderator: Amanda Ekabutr, Republic Services Panelists: Han Tsan, SRP; Paul Wang, Hallmark; Lakeysha DeLeon, BCBSAZ; Rupal Pernankil, Southwest Airlines	Wells Fargo
	<b>4B: Empowering Civic Leadership: Centering Voices of Arizonans</b> Moderator: Evelyn Casuga, Ctr For the Future of Arizona Panelists: Kristi Tate, Arizona Town Hall; Tara Jackson, Ctr For the Future of Arizona	Southwest Airlines
	<b>4C: Career Advancement and Networking Strategies</b> Kristi Lee, ElegantLee Design	Fry's Food Stores
4:40 - 5:00 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
5:00 - 7:00 pm	<b>Conference Welcome Reception &amp; Mentorship Class Graduation</b> Keynote Speaker: Wenli Jen, Integral Prudence Solutions Emcee: Steve Erickson, Teach For America Light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served	Salt River Project Room

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th

Time	Activity	Location
8:00 - 9:00 am	<b>Registration, Coffee/Tea and Kickoff</b> Speaker: Steve Vicera, Sommit Fitness	Salt River Project Room
9:00 - 9:20 am	<b>Networking Break</b>	
9:20 - 10:35 am	<b>5A: Strategic Networking and Relationship Building</b> Elizabeth Greene, Lam Research	Wells Fargo
	<b>5B: Navigating News Media: Insights for Business Leaders and Community Organizers</b> Moderator: Kris Vera-Phillip, Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU Panelists: Steve Kilar, The Arizona Republic/AZCentral.com; Stella Sun, 12 News; Haley Ziomek, KTVK & KPHO	Southwest Airlines
	<b>5C: Unlock Your Potential: Preparing to Lead with Intention</b> Speaker: Tania Will Jeppesen, The Prepared Leader Consulting	Fry's Food Stores



# SCHEDULE

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th

Time	Activity	Location
10:35 - 10:55 am	<b>Networking Break</b>	
10:55 - 12:10 pm	<b>6A: The Art of Building a Powerful Personal Brand</b> Moderator: Hui Wu-Curtis, SupportU Panelists: Elizabeth Greene, Lam Research; Monica Meyerand, OneAZ Credit Union; Allison Otu, ASU; Monica Wang, Amentum	Wells Fargo
	<b>6B: Negotiation: Bridging Cultural Perspectives</b> Paul Wang, Hallmark	Southwest Airlines
	<b>6C: Fast-Track Your Success in Launching a Consumer Brand Product in Six Months</b> Adam King + Sam Hyun, 1587 Sneakers	Fry's Food Stores
12:10 - 12:30 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
12:30 - 1:30 pm	<b>Lunch   Asian Americans Digital Lives and Growing Influence</b> Speaker: Katie Chin, Wok Star Productions Emcee: Faye Ferguson, A&B Balloon Creations	Salt River Project Room
1:30 - 1:50 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
1:50 - 3:05 pm	<b>7A: Maximize Your Wealth – Financial Planning, Tax Efficiency, and Investing for Every Career Stage</b> Phil Kim, Signature Wealth Concepts, LLC	Wells Fargo
	<b>7B: Cultural and Intersectionality in Leadership: Empowering Asian American &amp; Pacific Islander LGBTQ Communities</b> Moderator: Kenny Ho, Carvana Panelists: Sam Castro, Choice Hotels International; Dr. Vivienne Hau, Kaiser Permanente; Michael Chang, Molecular Testing Labs, Raymond Wong, talech Point	Southwest Airlines
	<b>7C: Who Are You, and What Do You Want? Leveraging Your Life Experiences for Growth and Sales</b> Wenli Jen, Integral Prudence Solutions	Fry's Food Stores
3:05 - 3:25 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
3:25 - 4:40 pm	<b>8ABC: Own Your Leadership Journey Through Curiosity</b> Van Lai-DuMone, worksmART advantage	Wells Fargo & Southwest Airlines
4:40 - 5:00 pm	<b>Networking Break</b>	
5:00 - 6:00 pm	<b>Gala Registration and Reception</b>	
6:00 - 8:00 pm	<b>Gala Dinner</b> Keynote Speaker: Kevin Bradley, HUB International Co-Emcees: Roger Cheng, AT&T & Elizabeth Greene, Lam Research	Salt River Project Room

## MEET THE EMCEES



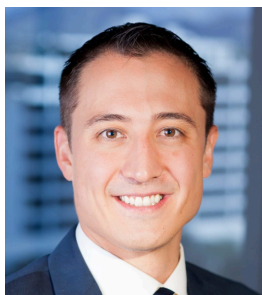
### **Roger Cheng | Sr. Supplier Diversity Sourcing Manager at AT&T**

Roger Cheng has over 14 years of experience in the technology industry, Roger's expertise lies in leading business development initiatives through Supplier Diversity, having previously excelled with M/WBEs. Roger is affectionately known as "The Voice" for his captivating emcee and VOG (Voice of God) performances at various prestigious events nationwide. In acknowledgment of his unwavering support for gender equality, Roger was bestowed with the esteemed #Hes4Shes Champion title at the WBENC National Conference in 2017.



### **Elizabeth Greene | Global learning and development function at Lam Research**

Elizabeth Greene currently leads a Fortune 500 global semiconductor equipment company. She has over 20 years of experience delivering inclusive workforce advancement initiatives and organizational learning strategies that improve the employee experience. She has spent her entire career promoting a culture of learning, where employees are encouraged to learn, grow, and make a difference in fast-moving global environments. Elizabeth earned a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies, a Master's Degree in Business Administration, and a Senior Human Resource Professional certification (SHRM-SCP). Outside of her busy schedule, she enjoys spending time with her 10-year-old twin boys, husband and dogs!



### **Steve Erickson | Executive Director at Teach For America**

Steve Erickson has joined the Teach For America corps in 2005, where he taught 4th grade and 7th grade in West Phoenix. After Steve's corps experience, he joined the Teach For America national recruitment team, where he was responsible for doubling the number of candidates joining Teach For America from the University of Arizona and Arizona State University. In 2009, Steve joined Teach For America's Phoenix regional staff, where he played various roles and led multiple functions, including fundraising, public/government affairs, partnerships, and alums strategy. Currently, Steve is the Executive Director responsible for the direction, impact, and success of Teach For America's program across the Phoenix community.



### **Faye Ferguson | Executive Director at Wells Fargo Bank**

Faye Ferguson is an Executive Director and District Senior Manager for Wells Fargo Bank, NA, overseeing a team of 95. With over 15 years in the financial industry, she leads the AZ Middle East Employee Resource Group and Arizona Asian Connection, promoting diversity and inclusion. Born in Dumaguete City, Philippines, Faye moved to the U.S. in 2007 and holds a BS in Information Technology from Negros Oriental State University. She is the Chairwoman of the ACEL board and a member of the Chandler and Mesa chambers of commerce. Faye, a twin mother, lives in Gilbert, AZ, and enjoys planning and hosting events.

# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 8:00AM - 9:00AM

### Friday Opening: Morning Kickoff

In this session, Daniela Thao will guide participants through breathwork techniques, emphasizing the importance of deep breathing to stay grounded, mindful, and fully present in the moment. This session will provide practical tools for managing stress, enhancing focus, and promoting overall well-being through conscious breathing practices.



#### Daniela Thao | Entrepreneur

Daniela Thao is a passionate entrepreneur, personal development coach, and therapy graduate student dedicated to helping others heal and thrive. Her experiences as a meditation student, model, and aspiring actor have shaped a unique approach to life. Having felt lost and alone in her own struggles, she understands the importance of having someone who offers understanding and support. Daniela is committed to being that guide for others, helping them become their best selves with the wisdom and empathy gained along the way. She believes in the transformative power of personal growth and healing.

**“Learn as if you will live forever, live like you will die tomorrow.” — Mahatma Gandhi**



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Our mission is to make the connections that empower communities to thrive. Through our meaningful relationships, we proudly support your efforts in the many communities we call home. Whether in the air or the ground, we believe community is more than a place – it's at the Heart of what brings us together.

**Southwest Airlines® is proud to be the official airline sponsor for the 2024 ACEling in Leadership Conference.**

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**9:20AM - 10:35AM**

### **1B Panel: AI and the Future of Work**

Examining how AI is reshaping the workforce by creating new roles like AI specialists and data scientists, while displacing routine tasks. Thriving in an AI-driven economy demands skills in data analysis, adaptability, ethics, and collaboration with AI systems.

#### **Moderator**



#### **Khanh Vu | CEO & Executive Director at Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers**

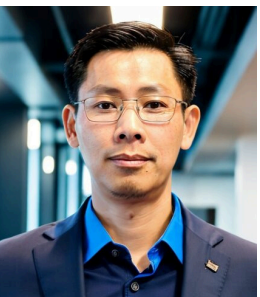
Khánh Vu immigrated to the USA from Vietnam at the end of the war. Khánh has a chemical engineering degree from the Colorado School of Mines. His passion for helping young adults led him back to be the Director of the Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP), which Khánh was part of MEP's inception (1989 as a student) and was a founder of the Asian Student Association (early 90s), which eventually merged with SASE. Khánh joined SASE in 2010 and became the CEO & Executive Director in 2011.

### **MEET THE PANELISTS**



#### **Rebecca Clyde | CEO & Co-Founder at Botco.ai.**

Rebecca Clyde is a future thinking, goal-oriented and globally minded marketing leader who drives business growth through creative and innovative communication strategies. Skilled at recognizing market trends, multi-cultural nuances and uncovering customer needs to develop highly effective and targeted marketing campaigns. High energy team motivator with a focus on managing through strengths. Espouses a leadership philosophy focused on self-managed teams, striving to create a work environment built around autonomy, mastery and purpose.



#### **Danh Truong | Business Development Manager at Proper Villains**

Danh Truong is a renowned problem solver and innovator, leveraging technology to propel organizations towards their goals. With diverse experience in IT services, telecommunications, graphic design, and software development, he has held roles from Chief Technology Officer to Business Development Manager. His entrepreneurial journey began at the University of Arizona, where he funded his education by offering tech solutions to small businesses. Danh is passionate about pushing boundaries, delivering solutions that exceed objectives, and driving growth through technological innovation. He offers deep insights into how AI reshapes the workforce and integrates AI into products to enhance capabilities and foster innovation.



#### **Amy Wang | Principal at Gnow-AI Consulting**

Amy Wang is a machine learning/artificial intelligence engineering specialist with nearly a decade of applied machine learning/artificial intelligence software application development experience. She has spent her career specializing in bringing machine learning and artificial intelligence to organizations new to these technologies. In particular, she focuses on guiding organizations towards early strategies for machine learning/artificial intelligence applications that maximize impact to the organization. With the exciting leaps forward recently made in generative artificial intelligence, she believes that there are incredible opportunities to bring delightful experiences to users — we are just at the beginning.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**9:20AM - 10:35AM**

## **1C Workshop - How to Say What You Really Mean Get Confident and Competent with Conflict**

Conflict is natural. Issues arise in mismanagement and avoidance of conflict. This workshop will shift your mindset, from viewing conflict as negative to seeing it as an opportunity for personal growth and communication. Through the unique use of creative tools, experience and gain skill sets to effectively and naturally resolve conflict.



### **Van Lai-DuMone | Founder & President at Worksmart Advantage**

Van Lai-DuMone actively works to rewrite the way we apply curiosity and creativity in the workplace, instilling brave thinking in clients who are willing to disrupt traditional learning and development methods. Van brings over 20 years of corporate and start-up experience into designing and implementing learning and development programs for her clients—using her proprietary Creative Integration™ strategies. She also serves as a fractional learning officer to mid-sized high growth organizations curious about developing a creative learning culture. Her clients include game changers like Google, MeUndies, LinkedIn, Pandora, and Southwest Airlines.



# **We help you grow your business**

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# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 10:55AM - 12:10PM

### 2A Panel Building Inclusive Workplaces Strategies for Effective Diversity Management

This panel will explore practical strategies and best practices for creating and maintaining inclusive workplaces. Topics will include implementing comprehensive diversity policies, fostering a culture of inclusion, addressing unconscious bias, and measuring the impact of diversity initiatives. Panelists will share insights and success stories from various industries, providing attendees with actionable takeaways to enhance their own organizations.

#### Moderator



#### **Essen Otu, MBA | Sr. Manager of Diversity Equity & Inclusion at Salt River Project (SRP)**

Essen Otu is an organizational culture shifter with a career spanning healthcare, utility, government, and non-profit industries. His work guides organizations in building inclusive, equitable, and sustainable cultures and brands through strategic stakeholder engagement and change management. Essen is the Senior Manager of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Salt River Project (SRP), where he applies diversity, inclusion, and belonging to create a more equitable and sustainable future for SRP's stakeholders. He holds degrees from Arizona State University and Baruch College, is a Valley Leadership graduate, Phoenix Business Journal 40 Under 40 honoree, and Virginia G. Piper Fellow. He serves on the Valleywise Health Governing Council and Arizona Community Foundation board.

#### MEET THE **PANELISTS**



#### **Alan Pak | Lieutenant at City of Mesa Police Department**

Alan Pak is a first-generation Korean-American raised in Colorado and relocated to Arizona in 2008. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder. With almost 16 years of service to the City of Mesa Police Department, Alan has held various roles, including Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, and Criminal Investigations Unit Sergeant. In January 2023, Alan was promoted to Lieutenant and now oversees the Hiring Unit, playing a pivotal role in attracting top talent and developing future leaders. Alan's career highlights his dedication and leadership in advancing public safety and community engagement.



#### **Melanie Stuckenberg | IT Director of Strategy Planning & Governance at Arizona Public Service**

Melanie Stuckenberg is an IT executive with over 20 years of corporate IT and 9 years of entrepreneurial experience in various industries. She leads teams dedicated to the successful business performance of IT, including financial planning, portfolio management, employee and organizational development, compliance, and vendor management. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Phoenix Botanical Gardens, focusing on the Operational and Personnel Committees. In her spare time, Melanie is an avid international traveler, who loves to experience other cultures, languages, and food!



#### **Cindi Wong | Supply Chain Management Director at General Dynamics Mission Systems**

Cindi Wong is the Supply Chain Management Director for General Dynamics Mission Systems. Her team procures all commercial-off-the-shelf IT hardware and software for the company and negotiates software license agreements. Previously, she was the senior manager of Supply Chain Risk Management and Strategic Sourcing. She led several major negotiations that provided a competitive advantage to General Dynamics Mission Systems. Ms. Wong holds a degree in Supply Chain Management from Arizona State University and a master's certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**10:55AM - 12:10PM**

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MEET THE **PANELISTS**

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**Lisa An Wong | Head, Pacific Rim Product at BMO Wealth Management**

Lisa Wong (Panelist) has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry in Fortune 500 firms. Currently she serves as the Director of Strategy and Operations in the National Banking Group of BMO Wealth Management. Lisa started her journey in the diversity, equity and inclusion space by joining the Organization of Chinese Americans, and her passion grew, eventually leading to her participation in the White House Initiative of Asian American and Pacific Islanders where she wrote Memorandums of Use to the President of the United States on Asian American Initiatives in 2016 and 2018.

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**2B: Holy Shitake! A Wok Star is Born**

Get ready to be blown away by the talents of Chef Katie Chin. Filled with pathos and humor, “Holy Shitake! A Wok Star is Born” written by Katie, directed by Fran de Leon and produced by Paul Hemstreet, chronicles Chef Katie Chin’s journey as a Chinese American girl growing up in Minneapolis in the 1970s where she was raised by her remarkable mother, seamstress turned restaurateur, Leeann Chin. You will be captivated by her unique blend of humor, storytelling, and culinary expertise. Prepare to be entertained as she shares her personal journey of becoming a Wok Star and conquering the culinary world. Join us for an unforgettable hour filled with laughter, inspiration, and mouthwatering tales. Don’t miss out on this one-of-a-kind event that will leave you craving for more!



**Katie Chin | Founder & Executive Chef at Wok Star Inc.**

Katie Chin, a celebrated chef, caterer, cookbook author, and playwright, is dedicated to demystifying Asian cuisine for home cooks. Raised in her mother Leeann Chin’s renowned Minneapolis restaurants, Katie transitioned from a career in film and television marketing to follow her culinary passion. Co-host of PBS’s Double Happiness and author of award-winning cookbooks like Everyday Thai Cooking and Everyday Chinese Cookbook, Katie is known for her expertise in pan-Asian cooking. Featured in Forbes, HuffPost, and The Wall Street Journal, she has appeared on The Kelly Clarkson Show, Today Show, and Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen. Katie continues to inspire with her culinary journey and advocacy for Asian cuisine.

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**2C Think Inside the Box, Reinvent Wheels, and Find Joy in Unlevel Playing Fields**

Moving beyond storytelling to storyliving and storydoing requires unconventional thinking. Join us to discover strategies for pivoting with ease, minimizing reliance on elevator speeches, and fostering personal creativity. Learn practical approaches to embrace change, navigate challenges, and thrive in dynamic environments. This workshop is designed to empower you with tools to innovate, adapt, and excel in today’s complex landscape.



**Bill Imada | Chairman and Chief Connectivity Officer at IW Group**

Bill Imada is an officer of public relations and marketing agency specializing in the multicultural markets. Bill and his agency represent clients such as AARP, BMS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lexus, Nielsen, Northwestern Mutual, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Walmart, Walt Disney, Warner Bros. Pictures Entertainment, Wells Fargo, and many others. Bill serves on the boards of the ANA Educational Foundation, Coalition for Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, Institute for Public Relations, LAGRANT Foundation, National ACE, PBS Southern California, and the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations. Earlier this year, Bill was named to the American Advertising Federation’s Advertising Hall of Fame.



## Sparking positive change in our community

Inspiring people and mobilizing resources to address critical issues is a significant achievement. We're proud to recognize the work your organization does in our community — making a difference in so many people's lives.

**Let's join together in saluting Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders and their award honorees.**

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**  
**12:30PM - 1:30PM**

## Lunch Speakers



**Sam Hyun**  
**Co-Founder at 1587 Sneakers**

Sam Hyun is one of the Co-Founders of 1587 Sneakers. He also serves as the Director of Government Relations for The Asian American Foundation. In 2021, Sam was named one of the Boston Globe's Bostonians of the Year and has been featured in numerous publications. In addition to his work in government relations, Sam is passionate about advocating for the AAPI community and creating opportunities for underrepresented groups. He enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with his family.



**Adam King**  
**Co-Founder at 1587 Sneakers**

Adam King's passions are sneakers and impacting the AAPI community. He is the co-founder and CEO of 1587 Sneakers and has previously worked for Reebok, adidas, and KOIO. Throughout his sneaker journey, he has held roles in product marketing and development, sales, logistics, social marketing, and production. He has been featured on MSNBC (Katie Phang Show), the cover of the Boston Globe, and various other outlets. His best friend is Obi, his cat.

## Moderator



**Bill Imada**  
**Chairman and Chief Connectivity Officer at IW Group**

Bill Imada is an officer of public relations and marketing agency specializing in the multicultural markets. Bill and his agency represent clients such as AARP, BMS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lexus, Nielsen, Northwestern Mutual, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Walmart, Walt Disney, Warner Bros. Pictures Entertainment, Wells Fargo, and many others. Bill serves on the boards of the ANA Educational Foundation, Coalition for Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, Institute for Public Relations, LAGRANT Foundation, National ACE, PBS Southern California, and the Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations. Earlier this year, Bill was named to the American Advertising Federation's Advertising Hall of Fame.



# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 1:50PM - 3:05PM

### 3A Workshop – Leading or Being Led In An Inclusive Environment

To have the most productive teams, studies have shown that you should have diverse teams. Hiring diversity is the easy part. In its simplest terms, diversity is about counting heads, but inclusion is when you make those heads count. So how do you take a diverse team and lead in an inclusive manner? In this workshop, we will talk about communication styles, effective listening, and leading intercultural and multicultural teams to drive efficiencies and engagement.



**Kevin Chan Bradley**

**Vice President, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community at HUB International**

Kevin Chan Bradley the organization in 2021, he oversees the company's overarching DEI strategy and provides coaching and consultation to ensure the execution of the strategy on all levels of the organization. Kevin integrates compliance with diversity initiatives and believes D&I is integral to every role. Throughout his HR career, he built lasting community partnerships in several industries, including manufacturing, fast food, and financial services. Kevin continues to advocate through his engagements in Access Living, Parents' Alliance Employment Project board, Chicago Philharmonic board, St. Jude's advisory committee and his fraternity's DEI committee. He holds degrees from Northeastern Illinois University and Villanova University.

### 3B Panel "Strategies for AAPI Leadership Advancement in Healthcare"

This panel will delve into the broader context of AAPI professionals' experiences in healthcare leadership roles. Topics will include identifying systemic barriers, discussing successful leadership models, and devising strategies to encourage greater representation. The aim is to provide actionable insights to support AAPI individuals in their pursuit of leadership positions within the healthcare profession.

#### Moderator



**Dr. Tony Lee, MD | Physican at Synergy Rehabilitation & Wellness Center**

Tony Lee is board-certified in physical medicine, rehabilitation, and pain medicine, with extensive experience in physical therapy and holistic care. Dr. Lee earned degrees in microbiology from Dartmouth College and Georgia State University, followed by a medical degree from Mercer University. He completed his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and a fellowship at Southwest Spine & Sports. Named a Top Doc ten times by PHOENIX magazine, Dr. Lee has served in various leadership roles, including with the Maricopa County Medical Society and the Arizona Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is also active in community organizations like Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. In his free time, Dr. Lee enjoys traveling, golfing, hiking, and exploring culinary experiences with his family.

### MEET THE **PANELISTS**



#### **Dr. Vivienne S. Hau, MD, PhD**

##### **Clinical Assistant Professor at Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine**

Dr. Vivienne S. Hau, MD, PhD is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine and a retina surgeon at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. She leads Kaiser Permanente's largest ophthalmology clinical research program, focusing on age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, with over 20 prospective randomized studies and four FDA-approved treatments. Dr. Hau, openly transgender and a first-generation Vietnamese boat immigrant, is the first LGBTQIA+ board member of the American Society of Retina Specialists. She co-chairs their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and initiated the first LGBTQIA+ ophthalmology mentorship program. A national speaker and advocate for LGBTQIA+ communities, Dr. Hau enjoys family time at Disneyland and volunteers in marathons guiding blind athletes and participating in triathlons.



#### **Annie Rose Manuel | Nurse Manager at Mayo Clinic**

Annie Rose Manuel provides leadership oversight for nursing functions in Ambulatory Orthopedic Surgery including Sports Medicine. She has over 30 years of nursing experience in clinical and leadership roles in various healthcare settings and a clinical background in medical-surgical, palliative care, post anesthesia care unit, and orthopedic surgery. Annie serves as Vice President of the Philippine Nurses Association of Arizona. She is also the current Chair of the Asian Connection Diversity group at Mayo Clinic Arizona and the Chair of the Scholarship committee of the Saint Louis University Nursing Alumni Association International. She is driven by a commitment to patient care, professional development, and fostering educational opportunities for future nurses.



#### **Vershalee Shukla, MD | Founder at Vincere Cancer Center**

Vershalee Shukla is also a Radiation Oncology Specialist in Scottsdale, AZ, with 16 years of experience. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan / College of Medicine in 2003. As the Founder of Vincere Cancer Center, Dr. Shukla oversees a state-of-the-art radiation center featuring one of the first vaultless linacs globally, known as Zap. Her center offers specialized amenities like tea rooms, yoga spaces, and a pet therapy garden, all designed to enhance patient well-being. Dr. Shukla's pioneering work and leadership in oncology have positioned her as one of the most sought-after physicians in her field worldwide.



#### **Dr. Christopher Yeung, MD | Orthopedic Spine Surgeon at DISC**

Christopher Yeung is a board-certified, fellowship-trained orthopedic spine surgeon, and built DISC with the philosophy of providing patients the least invasive yet most effective method to treat their spine problems. He is an expert and educator in the most cutting edge minimally invasive techniques, with a special affinity for endoscopic spine surgery and cervical artificial disc replacement. He has trained dozens of surgeons on endoscopic spine surgery and has been the principal investigator in numerous FDA studies, including the Orthofix 1 & 2-level M6-C artificial disc replacement, Cervicore cervical & Flexicore lumbar artificial disc replacement, and Coflex dynamic stabilization device.



# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 1:50PM - 3:05PM

### 3C PANEL: Financial Strategies and Resilience for Entrepreneurs

This panel equips entrepreneurs with essential financial strategies and resilience techniques. Learn to cultivate a resilient mindset, secure venture capital and angel investments, and explore bootstrapping and alternative financing methods like crowdfunding and grants. Gain insights into crafting compelling pitches, negotiating terms, and building your business with limited resources. By the end, you'll be prepared to navigate financial challenges and thrive in your entrepreneurial journey.

#### Moderator



#### **Liana Habicht | Founder at Connected Method**

Liana Habicht, MBA is an international leadership coach, marketing strategist, and Silicon Valley entrepreneur with over 20 years of business experience spanning 10 countries. She has held leadership roles at McKinsey & Company, INSEAD, Zara, and various Silicon Valley startups, and has coached hundreds of startup founders and executives from 30+ countries. As the CEO of Connected Method, a global EdTech firm, Liana empowers leaders to master their next evolution. Her personal journey exemplifies the transformative power of Connected Method programs like "Recalibrate" and SELF-full Leadership, allowing her to achieve unprecedented success through continuous self-reinvention. Liana splits her time between San Francisco and Phoenix. She was educated at Harvard and INSEAD.

### MEET THE PANELISTS



#### **Jasmine Bhatti | Founder & President at Navi Nurses**

Jasmine Bhatti is a trailblazer in the healthcare industry, pioneering a revolutionary approach to nursing care that empowers patients and families. As a registered nurse, PhD candidate, and founder and CEO of Navi Nurses, she is at the forefront of the co-created care movement. With a passion for innovation and a deep commitment to patient-centered care, her technology-enabled organization provides consumer-driven nursing services without requiring a physician's order, putting the power back into the hands of clients and their loved ones. Bhatti is disrupting the traditional healthcare model, paving the way for a future where people are truly at the center of their own care journeys while simultaneously reshaping the nursing profession - creating a more inclusive and empowering experience for all.



#### **Rodney Hu | Owner at Yucca Tap Room**

Rodney Hu is a 2nd generation Arizona native that graduated from Marcos de Niza High School, in Tempe, before going on to earn his Bachelor's from Arizona State University in Finance. Rodney spent 8 years on Wall Street as an investment analyst in sales & trading for various firms including Bear Wagner Specialists, Bear, Stearns & Co., Goldman Sachs, and Cantor Fitzgerald. Currently, he is the Owner / Operator of the infamous Yucca Tap Room in Tempe and also manages several commercial retail and residential rental properties. He is a founding member of the Arizona Distilling Company, a Tempe-based micro-distillery that produced the first locally distilled spirits in the Phoenix metro area since prohibition. Over the past 10 years, Rodney has been working in the cannabis industry and is involved in several cannabis startups and licensed partnerships in Arizona. He also helped launch popular brands such as Vital Infusions and Grand Daddy Genetics and worked with state and local regulators to allow extractions in the state. Rodney was also named one of the top 100 tastemakers by the Phoenix New Times and serves on several boards including the Tempe Sports Authority Foundation.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**1:50PM - 3:05PM**

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MEET THE **PANELISTS**

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**Pete Kim | Technology Entrepreneur & Co-Founder Media.Monks/S4 Capital**

Pete Kim is a dynamic technology entrepreneur and the Executive Director at S4 Capital Group, where he shapes the future of advertising technology. With a strategic vision and deep understanding of the digital landscape, he propels businesses forward by integrating diverse advertising practices. As the Founder and former CEO of MightyHive, he continues to influence digital marketing, working with top advertisers across various industries. MightyHive empowers marketers with privacy-first data strategies and digital media services. Pete's extensive experience includes key roles at Google and Yahoo!, and he holds degrees from UC Berkeley and Wharton. He lives in Scottsdale, Arizona with his family.



**Jean Seo | Founder & President at Evolve Skin Care**

Jean Seo is founder of Evolve Skin Care. She opened the very first eco-chic beauty boutique in Beverly Hills in 2007, where she stocked the most popular green beauty brands. She discovered that her discerning Hollywood celebrity clients weren't satisfied with the results, so she formulated products utilizing moisturizing factors naturally occurring in our bodies, and developed Evolve Skincare. Today, Evolve Skincare proudly offers two brands globally: Evolve Beverly Hills, an anti-aging skincare; and LUE by Jean Seo, an accessible organic skincare sold at 1,371 Walmart Supercenters in the US.



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# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 3:25PM - 4:40PM

### 4A: Harnessing the Power of ERGs: Strategies for Amplifying Voices and Driving Change

This workshop delves into various strategies and best practices for leveraging ERGs to amplify underrepresented voices within a company, foster a culture of belonging, and drive meaningful change in policies, practices, and attitudes. The panel will touch upon methods such as leadership support, resource allocation, intersectionality, and community engagement to empower ERGs and maximize their impact on organizational culture and performance.

#### Moderator



#### Amanda Ekabutr | Leadership Development Facilitator at Republic Services

Amanda Ekabutr is a Thai Asian American woman, is deeply committed to and passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Her diverse background includes implementing and facilitating effective educational programs in DEI, leadership development, professional development, and gender-based violence prevention, particularly within college and professional athletic teams. Before her current role as a Leadership Development Facilitator with the Talent Development Team at Republic Services, Amanda worked with The Institute for Sport and Social Justice, a non-profit organization. There, she provided support to staff, student-athletes, and coaches through leadership development, DEI initiatives, and gender-based violence prevention.

### MEET THE PANELISTS



#### Lakeysha DeLeon | DEI Advisor at Blue Cross Blue Shield of AZ

Lakeysha DeLeon is the DEI Advisor for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. In 2021, after a near decade of Human Resource experience, Lakeysha transitioned her focus towards DEI efforts and the need for a deeper dive into how we view inclusion. Understanding that inclusion is not just a buzzword, but the key to unlocking the potential of any organization, Lakeysha focuses on building a culture that is rooted in not only the idea of inclusion but living and practicing integrated values. Lakeysha's passion lies in equipping her organization with strategies designed to bring new approaches to areas including meaningful affinity groups, reimagined hiring practices, and enhanced cultural intelligence.



#### Rupal Pernankil | Artificial Intelligence Product Owner at Southwest Airlines

Rupal Pernankil currently serves as an Artificial Intelligence Product Owner at Southwest Airlines and Vice President of Southwest's AAPI community-focused ERG, RAPID@SWA. With 10 years of experience in both marketing and data science at various startups, Rupal has had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the profound impact ERGs can have on fostering an inclusive and supportive workplace culture. In her current role at Southwest Airlines, she has been actively involved Southwest's inaugural Inclusion Council and growing a sense of belonging among the AAPI community. Her work has focused on providing a safe space to our community to grow and thrive and is passionate about leveraging ERGs to drive meaningful change within organizations.



#### Han Tsan | Metallurgist at Salt River Project

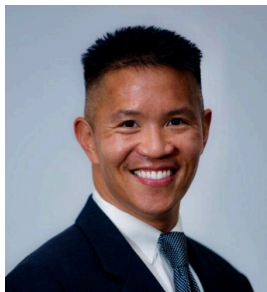
Han Tsan immigrated from Vietnam at 17 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with minors in Material Engineering and Chemistry from Cal Poly Pomona. She began her career as a Franchise Engineer Intern at Southwest Gas and then joined Salt River Project's rotational engineer program, gaining experience in various sectors. Currently, she is Metallurgist for SRP's Generation Assets, overseeing high-energy piping inspections and maintenance. Han is also the chairman of the Asian Interest Network, a member of Female in Technology, and a mentor at SRP. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, swimming, and cooking, and recently passed the Professional Engineer Certification exam in Thermal and Fluid Systems.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

3:25PM - 4:40PM

## MEET THE **PANELISTS**



### **Paul Wang | Corporate Vice President at Hallmark**

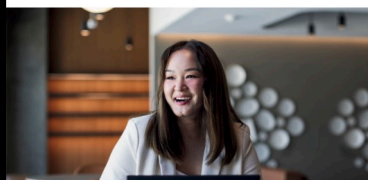
Paul Wang is Corporate Vice President of Technology, Transactions, and QC/PMO for Hallmark Cards, Inc. and Divisional CFO for Hallmark Labs, its subsidiary. With over 20 years of financial and management experience, Paul oversees portfolio, service delivery, and financial matters for technology, including delivery of managed services for IT operations, cloud, merchant, subscription billing and retention services. Previously, Paul was Hallmark Labs' Site Leader (GM), and Production Controller at Fox Twentieth Television. He holds a BS from UCLA, is a licensed CPA, serves on the Merchant Risk Council's Board, and is co-sponsor of Hallmark's AARCH (Asian American Resource Community at Hallmark).



**“Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success.” -Dale Carnegie**



**DINE BRANDS IS PROUD**  
*to support the **ACEling** in Leadership Conference*



# FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

## 3:25PM - 4:40PM

### 4B Panel - Empowering Civic Leadership: Centering Voices of Arizonans

Discover the latest insights at this dynamic session featuring data from the Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA) on the 2024 Arizona Voters' Agenda. Join a vibrant community town hall discussion hosted by Arizona Town Hall (AZTH), where you can delve into issues that resonate across political and generational divides. AZTH will facilitate an ACEL Community Town Hall, empowering participants to actively discuss and influence Voting and Elections.

#### Moderator



#### **Evelyn Casuga | Director, Community & Economic Prosperity at Center for the Future of Arizona**

Evelyn Casuga volunteers in economic and community development, education, and civic engagement. A retired APS employee with 25 years of service, she also served nearly 10 years as a municipal leader at the City of Eloy and Town of Marana. Evelyn, a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), serves on several boards, including Arizona Town Hall, Arizona Capital Source, Central Arizona College Governing Board, and Growth Partners Arizona. She co-chairs the WESTMARC Quality of Life Committee and advises Asian Corporate and Entrepreneur Leaders.

### MEET THE PANELISTS



#### **Tara Jackson | President at Arizona Town Hall**

Tara Jackson has served as President of Arizona Town Hall since July 2006. In this role, she collaborates with diverse Arizonans to create informed community and statewide sessions that address challenging political and social topics, building consensus and creating blueprints for positive change. Tara also works as a facilitator and consultant for government and private organizations. Before joining Arizona Town Hall, she practiced employment and commercial litigation law for 16 years and taught as an adjunct professor at ASU's Law School. Tara has held numerous positions in state and federal bar associations and has served in various leadership or advisory roles for non-profit and educational organizations.



#### **Kristi Tate | Director of Civic Health Initiatives at Center for the Future of Arizona**

Kristi Tate has led organizations focused on education, service, and civic engagement. Previously, she worked with the National Conference on Citizenship (NCoC), leading partnerships for the Civic Health Index. Kristi also directed the DC Schools Project at Georgetown University's Center for Social Justice and programs for HandsOn Greater Phoenix and the Boys and Girls Club of Boston Charlestown Clubhouse. She holds a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University, with a focus on social and public policy.



**“Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.” – Suzy Kassem**





**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**3:25PM - 4:40PM**

#### **4C: Career Advancement and Networking Strategies**

This workshop empowers women with strategies for career growth and effective networking, and the positive impact of building relationships. Participants will learn to build a personal brand, seek mentorship, and utilize networking tactics. The focus includes establishing connections, navigating events, and leveraging online platforms, enabling attendees to confidently advance their careers.



#### **Kristi Lee | Marketing & Business Strategist at ElegantLee Design**

Kristi Lee brings 38 years of expertise in web design, marketing, and business strategy. As one of the founding member of ACEL, Kristi played a key role in developing the ACEL brand, the ACELerate Women program, mentorship initiatives, and served as vice-chair on the board for four years. She also was Board president of the FBI Phoenix Citizens Academy Alumni Association and is a graduate of Valley Leadership Class 38. In 2011, Kristi received the Positively Powerful Woman Award for Non-Profit Leadership. She co-authored "License to Dream – Every Woman's Guide to Financial Freedom Through Network Marketing"; in 2010, aimed at empowering women in business.



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# The power of together

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It all starts by working together. Join us in  
celebrating the power of community.



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23**

**5:00PM - 7:00PM**

## **Keynote Speaker**

**DR. WENLI JEN**

**CEO FOR INTEGRAL PRUDENCE SOLUTIONS**



Dr. Wenli Jen is an award-winning consultant, speaker, professor, and talent development professional for the past 25 years. She is the CEO for the boutique consulting firm, Integral Prudence Solutions, which specializes in leadership, strategy, organizational effectiveness, engagement, process improvement, program implementation, and marketing for business, government, education and healthcare. Dr. Jen has been a two-time TEDx speaker and currently serves as President for Chinese American Citizens Alliance – Los Angeles, the longest-serving Asian American civil rights organization. Dr. Jen is the co-chair for Harvard Graduate School of Education Los Angeles Region Alumni Ambassadors. She is the PBS SoCal Community Advisory Board Vice Chair and member of Sierra Madre Playhouse Asian American Cultural Alliance. Dr. Jen served as a National Advisory Council member for the U.S. Health and Human Services Center for Mental Health Services.



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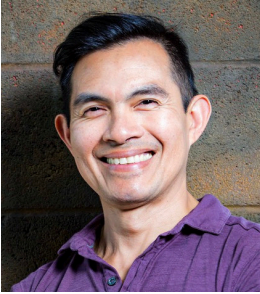


# SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

## 8:00AM - 9:00AM

### Saturday Opening: Morning Kickoff

Tired of back and neck pain from long hours at your desk? Transform your workspace habits with our dynamic class on improving posture and spine health. Discover the benefits of proper posture, identify common pitfalls of prolonged sitting, and implement practical solutions to enhance your well-being. Boost your comfort and productivity—join us to learn how to sit right and feel bright every day!



#### Steve Vicera | Owner of Sommet Fitness Pilates and Physical Therapy Studio

For over 20 years, Steve Vicera has been helping people reach their goals for better function, greater fitness, and an overall sense of well-being. He founded Sommet Fitness in 2007 and uses the Pilates methodology as an alternative to pain medications and surgery. Sommet Fitness Pilates and Physical Therapy Studio was recently recognized as one of the Top 5 Pilates Studios in 2023. Currently, Steve is a STOTT PILATES® Certified Instructor and Pain-Free Movement Specialist. He specializes in spinal stabilization and corrective exercise. His main emphasis is on safety and function, with a specialization on back pain.

“Great leaders are not defined by the absence of weakness, but rather by the presence of clear strengths.” —John Peter Zenger”

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- Encouragement & support
- Self-reliance & self-confidence
- Professional development & tips to improve lifestyle



Apply by August 31, 2024!



### 5A: Strategic Networking and Relationship Building

Learn essential strategies for building a robust professional network and fostering meaningful relationships from Khánh Vu, Director of the Multi-cultural Engineering Program at Colorado School of Mines and CEO of SASE. Discover techniques to leverage networking opportunities for career advancement and develop crucial leadership abilities. Gain expert guidance and practical insights to accelerate your career growth. Join us to enhance your networking skills and propel your career to new heights!



**Khanh Vu**  
**CEO & Executive Director at Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers**

Khánh Vu and his family immigrated to the USA from Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam conflict. Khánh graduated from the Colorado School of Mines with a degree in chemical engineering and 3 minors. His passion for helping young adults and fondness for Mines led him back to be the Director of the Multi-cultural Engineering Program (MEP), which Khánh was part of MEP's inception in 1989 as a student and was instrumental in the founding of the Asian Student Association in the early 90's (eventually merged with SASE). Khánh joined SASE in 2010 and became the CEO & Executive Director in 2011. Khánh oversaw the doubling of the collegiate chapters and tripling its membership during his 1st-year tenure with SASE. He looks forward to growing SASE to its full potential.

### 5B Panel - Navigating News Media: Insights for Business Leaders and Community Organizers

If you've ever wondered how journalists discover and develop their stories, or if you're looking to get your organization's stories noticed by the media, you're in for a treat. At the upcoming ACEL conference, AAJA Arizona leads a panel discussion featuring Phoenix media professionals. This is your chance to gain behind-the-scenes insights into the world of journalism and learn how to effectively engage with the media.



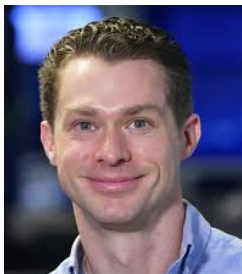
#### Moderator



**Kris Vera-Phillips | Cronkite School of Journalism at ASU**

Kris Vera-Phillips is a faculty associate and Ph.D. candidate at the Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University. Her research explores race, identity, and representation in media. As a faculty associate, she teaches ethics and diversity, digital media literacy, news producing, and multimedia storytelling. Kris works with students to understand how their stories and content contribute to our shared understanding of the world. She is also an Emmy Award-winning journalist with over 14 years of experience in producing news shows and special projects.

### MEET THE **PANELISTS**



#### **Steve Kilar | Editor at The Arizona Republic/AZCentral.com**

Steve Kilar edits The Arizona Republic/AZCentral.com's coverage of courts and the justice system; K-12 education; real estate; and race, equity and opportunity. He previously worked as a lawyer, a reporter for The Baltimore Sun and as a communications director for two public policy organizations. He is a graduate of Brown University and the University of Michigan Law School and has a master's in journalism from the University of Maryland.



#### **Stella Sun | Anchor & Reporter at 12 News**

Stella Sun is an Emmy Award-winning Traffic Anchor/Reporter and Meteorologist at 12 News in Phoenix. Before moving to the Valley in 2022 to be close to her family, she worked at KOAT in Albuquerque, NM, where she forecasted the weather on weekends and reported news three days a week. She was chosen as 2022's best reporter by the Albuquerque Journal. Stella previously worked at KTMF in Missoula, MT as a multimedia journalist and weather forecaster. She completed her meteorology certification in December 2023 through Mississippi State University. Stella is a proud graduate of the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University, where she double majored in broadcast news and global politics, and minored in global studies.



#### **Haley Ziomek | News producer at Arizona's Family (KTVK & KPHO) in Phoenix**

Haley Ziomek is a news producer for Arizona's Family (KTVK & KPHO) in Phoenix, where she has been since 2022. In her two and a half years, she has worked on various newscasts, finding, writing, and pitching stories daily for broadcast and digital mediums. Haley has also helped find guests for live segments on topics from health and wellness to community events, highlighting local organizations. Most recently, she helped launch "Taste of Arizona," a weekly segment featuring local Arizona restaurants. An Arizona native, Haley graduated from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, earning her master's degree in 2022.

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### **5C Unlock Your Potential: Preparing to Lead with Intention**

Discover the essential components of becoming a truly prepared leader. In this engaging session, Tania draws from over 15 years of experience leading operations teams and shares how to cultivate a mindset that drives growth, build effective systems to reach your goals, and surround yourself with high achievers. You'll also explore the importance of authentic relationships in leadership. Whether you're leading now or aspiring to, this interactive session will give you specific actions to implement immediately, in both your personal and professional life, to prepare for success and drive meaningful progress in your leadership journey.



#### **Tania Will Jeppesen | Owner and Founder at The Prepared Leader Consulting**

Tania Will Jeppesen, Owner and Founder of The Prepared Leader Consulting, brings over 20 years of expertise in operations, leadership, and HR working with Fortune 500 companies, start-ups, and her own entrepreneurial journey. With a background in Industrial Engineering, she excels at transforming chaos into clarity through effective systems and processes. Her mission extends beyond organizational improvement; she aims to empower individuals to not just survive but truly thrive at work. Tania is dedicated to fostering environments where every team member's strengths are valued and developed, paving the way for extraordinary success.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

## 10:55AM - 12:10PM

### 6A: The Art of Building a Powerful Personal Brand

Tailored for women in business, this empowering session explores the journey of building a compelling personal brand. This interactive session offers actionable strategies for defining your brand identity, communicating your value effectively, and overcoming unique challenges. Empower yourself to amplify your visibility and position as a trusted authority.

#### Moderator



#### **Dr. Hui Wu-Curtis | Chief Operating Officer & Founder at SupportU**

As an executive specializing in contact center operations, Dr. Wu-Curtis has over 20 years of experience in leadership roles across multiple industries. Through her various leadership roles, Hui noticed that high potential talent remained untapped, as they were never given the opportunity for mentorship and coaching needed to advance in their roles. Hui started SupportU, a woman, minority-owned business process outsourcing company that specializes in contact center operations. SupportU's commitment to caring for its people translates into providing clients with outstanding service and support delivery.

### MEET THE PANELISTS



#### **Elizabeth Greene | Global Learning & Development Function at Lam Research**

Elizabeth Greene currently leads the global learning and development function at Lam Research, a Fortune 500 semiconductor equipment company. With over 20 years of experience, she excels in delivering inclusive workforce advancement initiatives and organizational learning strategies. Elizabeth promotes a culture of learning, encouraging employees to grow in dynamic global environments. She has received numerous awards, including the Trailblazer Award from Chief Learning Officer and the Top 50 Learning & Development Professional Award from ONCON Icon Awards. Elizabeth serves on the Board of Advance Community, is an Advisory Board Member for NAU, and mentors with ACEL. She holds degrees in East Asian Studies and Business Administration, and a SHRM-SCP certification.



#### **Allison Otu | Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at ASU**

Allison Otu, MBA, is a dynamic leader known for her expertise in brand and community engagement. As Executive Director of Marketing and Communications at ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, she scales programs and fosters partnerships. Otu has held influential positions at ASU, including roles at Educational Outreach and Student Services, Arizona PBS, and the Cronkite School. She organized Phoenix's largest STEM event, Connect2STEM, at UArizona College of Medicine - Phoenix. Appointed by Mayor Kate Gallego to the Phoenix Women's Commission, she co-chairs the affordable childcare subcommittee. Otu holds an Executive MBA from the University of Arizona and a BA from Ball State University.



#### **Monica Meyerand | VP of Brand and Acquisition | OneAZ Credit Union**

Monica Meyerand builds strategic alliances for corporate partnerships. Monica has over 20 years in marketing, branding, traditional & digital media, public relations, and advertising agency experience. Monica stays active in the community and recently was appointed to the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts – Arizona Cactus Pine, an organization that helps girls reach their potential and creates a place for growth, character, and leadership. Monica is also involved as a member with ACEL, National Charity League, Phoenix Chapter, State Forty-Eight Foundation, and Young & Empowered.



### MEET THE **PANELISTS**



#### **Monica Wang | Business Development Director at Amentum**

Monica Wang serves with the Environment and Security team under the National Security business unit. With close to 20 years of experience, holding an MBA and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering, Monica leverages her professional background to drive growth and innovation. In the nonprofit sector, Monica shines as the President of ACEL (Asian Corporate & Entrepreneur Leaders) for Denver Chapter, dedicated to developing Asian business leaders and fostering leadership growth. Additionally, she serves on the board as the Vice President at SAME (Society of America Military Engineers) Denver Metro Post, furthering her commitment to government agencies and private sector partners. Beyond her professional and philanthropic endeavors, Monica is a certified yoga instructor, ultramarathon runner, outdoor adventure and yoga retreat leader, world traveler, and devoted mother of two.

### **6B Negotiation: Bridging Cultural Perspectives**

This workshop will explore the art of negotiation, emphasizing techniques and strategies effective across diverse cultural backgrounds. Participants will learn how to navigate negotiations with a deep understanding of cultural nuances, particularly those within the AAPI community. We will cover essential skills, including developing your BATNA (Best Alternative to a Negotiated Agreement), active listening, empathy, reciprocity, adaptability, addressing conflict, and more—all of which are crucial for successful negotiations in both professional and personal settings.



#### **Paul Wang | Corporate Vice President at Hallmark**

Paul Wang is Corporate Vice President of Technology, Transactions, and QC/PMO for Hallmark Cards, Inc. and Divisional CFO for Hallmark Labs, its subsidiary. With over 20 years of financial and management experience, Paul oversees portfolio, service delivery, and financial matters for technology including delivery of managed services for IT operations, cloud, merchant, subscription billing and retention services. Previously, Paul was Hallmark Labs' Site Leader (GM), and Production Controller at Fox Twentieth Television. He holds a BS from UCLA, is a licensed CPA, serves on the Merchant Risk Council's Board, and is co-sponsor of Hallmark's AARCH (Asian American Resource Community at Hallmark).



**“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” – Helen Keller**



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

**10:55AM - 12:10PM**

## **6C: Fast-Track Your Success in Launching a Consumer Brand Product in Six Months**

This workshop, featuring Adam King and Sam Hyun, co-founders of 1587 Sneakers. Gain exclusive insights into market research, brand development, product design, and launch strategies from these industry experts. Learn the step-by-step process to transform your idea into a successful consumer brand within half a year. This workshop is your opportunity to fast-track your entrepreneurial journey and achieve success quickly. Don't miss this chance to turn your vision into reality.



### **Adam King | Co-founder at 1587 Sneakers**

Adam King's passions are sneakers and impacting the AAPI community. He is the co-founder and CEO of 1587 Sneakers and has previously worked for Reebok, adidas, and KOIO. Throughout his sneaker journey, he has held roles in product marketing and development, sales, logistics, social marketing, and production. He has been featured on MSNBC (Katie Phang Show), the cover of the Boston Globe, and various other outlets. His best friend is Obi, his cat.



### **Sam Hyun | Co-founder at 1587 Sneakers**

Sam Hyun is one of the Co-Founders of 1587 Sneakers. He also serves as the Director of Government Relations for The Asian American Foundation. In 2021, Sam was named one of the Boston Globe's Bostonians of the Year and has been featured in numerous publications. In addition to his work in government relations, Sam is passionate about advocating for the AAPI community and creating opportunities for underrepresented groups. He enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with his family.

## **Strengthening communities through charitable giving.**

For over 45 years, the Arizona Community Foundation has held strongly to the belief that bringing multiple voices and perspectives to the table is the best way to solve community problems and take full advantage of emerging opportunities.

Today, we celebrate the rich cultural diversity that defines our state. Our cultural giving initiatives, known collectively as Philanthropy for All, engage diverse communities in addressing relevant needs.

**Learn more | [azfoundation.org](https://azfoundation.org) | 602.381.1400**



ARIZONA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**  
**12:30PM - 1:30PM**

## **Asian Americans Digital Lives and Growing Influence**



**Katie Chin | Founder & Executive Chef at Wok Star Inc.**

Katie Chin is an award-winning cookbook author, television chef, playwright, caterer and is passionate about Asian food. She is committed to teaching the American public that the best Asian cooking can be achieved in a real home kitchen by real people on real schedules. Growing up in the kitchens of her late mother Leeann Chin's award-winning Minneapolis-area restaurants, Katie initially pursued a career in film and television marketing. However, she eventually left her executive position to return to her culinary roots, where she continues to inspire and educate through her culinary expertise.



### **Moderator**



**Faye Ferguson | Executive Director | Wells Fargo**

Faye Ferguson is an Executive Director and District Senior Manager for Wells Fargo Bank, NA, overseeing a team of 95. With over 15 years in the financial industry, she leads the AZ Middle East Employee Resource Group and Arizona Asian Connection, promoting diversity and inclusion. Born in Dumaguete City, Philippines, Faye moved to the U.S. in 2007 and holds a BS in Information Technology from Negros Oriental State University. She is the Chairwoman of the ACEL board and a member of the Chandler and Mesa chambers of commerce. Faye, a twin mother, lives in Gilbert, AZ, and enjoys planning and hosting events.

An advertisement for Eller MBA. The background is a collage of images: a city skyline, a desert landscape with mountains, and a woman with glasses holding a white coffee cup. Overlaid on the images is the word "WONDER" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, and below it, "MAKES US THRIVE" in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters. On the right side, there is a red vertical bar containing the Eller MBA logo (a stylized 'A' inside a red square), the text "Eller MBA", and the website "ellermba.com".

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# SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

## 1:50PM - 3:05PM

### 7A: Maximize Your Wealth – Financial Planning, Tax Efficiency, and Investing for Every Career Stage

This comprehensive workshop is tailored for both career starters and high-income earners. Discover strategies for effective wealth management, tax efficiencies, investing, and budgeting. Our goal is to educate and empower you to take control of your financial future. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your financial literacy and achieve your financial goals!



#### Phil Kim | Managing Director & Founding Member at Signature Wealth Concepts

Phil Kim, CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®, RICP®, CRES Phil Kim is the Managing Director and founding member of Signature Wealth Concepts. He graduated from Cornell University and transitioned to the financial industry in 2002. Phil's focus is on providing unbiased guidance to investors. His firm develops specific strategies for families and high net worth households to minimize taxes, safeguard assets, maximize growth, and transfer wealth. He has received commendations, including induction into the University of Arizona's Beta Gamma Sigma society, the 2021 Ford Volunteer Service recognition, and the 2022 Equitable Advisors Regional Honor Associate award.

### 7B: Cultural and Intersectionality in Leadership: Empowering Asian American & Pacific Islander LGBTQ Communities

"Cultural and Intersectionality in Leadership" delves into the unique challenges and experiences faced by Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) LGBTQ individuals across various sectors. This panel discussion will highlight the intersections of cultural identity and leadership perspectives, emphasizing the strengths these individuals bring to their communities and professional environments.

#### Moderator



#### Kenny Ho | Corporate Counsel at Carvana

Kenny Ho is a Corporate Counsel for Carvana, LLC. In his role, he assists with monitoring and maintaining the entire litigation portfolio for the Fortune 500 Company, which includes matters ranging from consumer litigation, commercial disputes, general liabilities, and regulatory matters. Kenny works closely with the corporate insurance and risks teams to protect the company and to minimize risk. As a young attorney, Kenny has earned Super Lawyers' Rising Stars recognition. Kenny is involved in various community organizations, including a board member for the Arizona Asian American Bar Association, and a former member of the State Bar of Arizona's Council for Minorities and Women in Law. Kenny is also a proud graduate of Valley Leadership Accelerate Class 1 and State Bar of Arizona's Bar Leadership Institute Class 12. He is also an active participant in the Asian Corporate Entrepreneur Leaders.

### MEET THE **PANELISTS**



#### **Sam Castro | Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Partner at| Choice Hotels International**

Sam Castro has a Master of Science Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling with years of experience in providing therapy and psychoeducation services for those in the LGBTQ and BIPOC Community as part of their Talent and Culture Department. Sam is an experienced equity leader and mental health advocate focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging work. She is versed in program development, management, facilitation and public speaking. Sam currently serves on several boards and committees in the Greater Phoenix area. She is proud to be Filipina and LGBTQ, and attributes her roots to her childhood city, San Francisco. In her personal time, Sam finds pleasure in traveling, trying new cuisines, attending concerts, and caring for her tropical plants.



#### **Michael Chang | Business Integration Project Manager at Molecular Testing Labs**

Michael Chang manages precision clinical laboratory specializing in at-home and remote self-collected testing. As a business optimizer, he wholeheartedly believes that everyone realizing and tapping into their greatest potential is key to a better world. Michael helps elevate others by fostering inclusive workspaces and enhancing team efficiency. He is committed to helping organizations through sustainable and purposeful collaboration, both with internal teams as well as with customers and community. Michael is a proud supporter of ONE Community, a coalition of socially responsible businesses, organizations, and individuals who are moving diversity, inclusion, equity, and equality forward for all Arizonans.



#### **Vivienne S. Hau, MD, PhD | Clinical Assistant Professor at Kaiser Permanente (KP) Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine**

Dr. Vivienne S. Hau, MD, PhD is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine and a retina surgeon at the Southern California Permanente Medical Group. She leads Kaiser Permanente's largest ophthalmology clinical research program, focusing on age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy, with over 20 prospective randomized studies and four FDA-approved treatments. Dr. Hau, openly transgender and a first-generation Vietnamese boat immigrant, is the first LGBTQIA+ board member of the American Society of Retina Specialists. She co-chairs their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and initiated the first LGBTQIA+ ophthalmology mentorship program. A national speaker and advocate for LGBTQIA+ communities, Dr. Hau enjoys family time at Disneyland and volunteers in marathons guiding blind athletes and participating in triathlons.



#### **Raymond Wong Jr. | Global Manager at talech Point of Sale**

Raymond Wong is the Global Manager of talech Point of Sale and a seasoned Leadership and Operational Management professional with over 20 years of experience in the Financial Services Industry. He excels in card compliance, chargebacks, and loss mitigation, and has led teams across the U.S. and abroad. Raymond is known for his strategic planning, project management, and systems implementation skills. He has played key roles in multiple platform roll-outs and is a trusted mentor with excellent relationship-building abilities. Raymond's leadership style focuses on group success and he is highly regarded for his ability to inspire and effectively communicate with all levels of leadership.

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**

**1:50PM - 3:05PM**

## **7C: Who Are You, and What Do You Want? Leveraging Your Life Experiences for Growth and Sales**

One topic that I was thinking about is crafting your story so that you can build relationships, rapport, and ultimately, sales. Many of us have life experiences and inspirations that have led us to where we are today. We have to sit comfortably in our own skin to know our vision and purpose. How can we harness that to our advantage as entrepreneurs? This practice session will give space for participants to speak to who they are by first diving into their own life and work experiences to have anchoring conversations.



### **Wenli Jen | Founder at Integral Prudence Solutions**

Dr. Wenli Jen is an award-winning consultant, speaker, professor, and talent development professional for the past 25 years. She is the CEO for the boutique consulting firm, Integral Prudence Solutions, which specializes in leadership, strategy, organizational effectiveness, engagement, process improvement, program implementation, and marketing for business, government, education and healthcare. Dr. Jen has been a two-time TEDx speaker and currently serves as President for Chinese American Citizens Alliance – Los Angeles, the longest-serving Asian American civil rights organization. Dr. Jen is the co-chair for Harvard Graduate School of Education Los Angeles Region Alumni Ambassadors. She is the PBS SoCal Community Advisory Board Vice Chair and member of Sierra Madre Playhouse Asian American Cultural Alliance. Dr. Jen served as a National Advisory Council member for the U.S. Health and Human Services Center for Mental Health Services.

Unity begins  
with all of us.





**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**  
**3:25PM - 4:40PM**

## **8ABC Own Your Leadership Journey Through Curiosity**

Join us for an interactive session inspired by Van Lai-DuMone's book, "What If Pigs Can Fly? A Practical Guide to Follow Your Curiosities to Achieve Impractical Possibilities." This workshop focuses on using curiosity to propel your leadership journey. Learn a simple framework for recognizing and following your curiosities, use creative problem-solving tools to brainstorm ideas, and discover the power of taking small steps toward your goals, supported by neuroscience.



### **Van Lai-DuMone | Founder at Worksmart Advantage**

Van Lai-DuMone, founder of Worksmart Advantage, transforms how curiosity and creativity are applied in the workplace, fostering brave thinking and disrupting traditional learning methods. With over 20 years of corporate and start-up experience, she designs and implements innovative learning programs using her proprietary Creative Integration™ strategies. Van also serves as a fractional learning officer for high-growth organizations. Her clients include Google, LinkedIn, Pandora, and Southwest Airlines. Author of "What if Pigs Can Fly?", Van helps individuals harness creativity and curiosity. She studied psychology at UCSB and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University. Watch her TEDx Talk on curiosity and courage.



**LIFE CAN CHANGE  
PRETTY QUICKLY.  
LET US HANDLE  
THE OTHER STUFF,  
SO YOU DON'T  
MISS WHAT  
MATTERS MOST.**

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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 24**  
**6:00PM - 8:00PM**

## **Keynote Speaker**

**KEVIN BRADLEY**

**VICE PRESIDENT, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION,  
AND COMMUNITY FOR HUB INTERNATIONAL**



Kevin Chan Bradley is the Vice President, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Community for HUB International. Joining the organization in 2021, he oversees the company's overarching DEI strategy and provides coaching and consultation to ensure the execution of the strategy on all levels of the organization. Kevin integrates compliance with diversity initiatives and believes D&I is integral to every role. Throughout his HR career, he built lasting community partnerships in several industries, including manufacturing, fast food, and financial services. Kevin continues to advocate through his engagements in Access Living, Parents' Alliance Employment Project board, Chicago Philharmonic board, St. Jude's advisory committee and his fraternity's DEI committee. He holds degrees from Northeastern Illinois University and Villanova University.



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### VISION STATEMENT

A world where everyone has the skills & opportunity to lead.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To advance the Asian American & Pacific Islander community by providing a network of resources in professional development, cultural awareness, community service and mentoring.

### VALUES

- **Leadership:** Develop, inspire, and connect leaders
- **Education:** Excel at life-long learning
- **Accountability:** Honor commitments to deliver value
- **Diversity:** Embrace a culture of inclusion and innovation



*“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” – Helen Keller*





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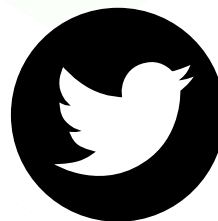
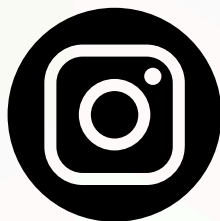
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