



WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE SUMMIT

Thursday, August 12, 2021
11:00AM - 5:00PM ET

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AGENDA (ET)

11:00AM-
11:15AM

Opening Remarks

- Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS
- Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), Chair of CAPAC
- Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL)
- Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa)
- Rep. Young Kim (CA-39)
- Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10)

11:15AM-
12:00PM

Panel #1: Asian American & Pacific Islander "Firsts"

Many AAPI women elected officials are the first of their race or gender to hold their position. While we can celebrate their historic strides in office, we also know that the experience of being the only woman, only AAPI, or only person of color in the room is all too familiar. This panel will discuss the joys and challenges of breaking barriers in elected office.

- Board Trustee Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i, Vice President & Trustee, Jefferson Elementary School District Governing Board
- Representative Tram T. Nguyen, Esq., 18th Essex District, Massachusetts House of Representatives
- The Honorable Dr. Martha Wong, Chair, Texas State Library and Archives Commission
- Commissioner Mai Xiong, Macomb County Board of Commissioners
- Moderated by: Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS

12:00PM-
12:30PM

Breakout Session A: How to Ask a Woman to Run for Office

Women are less likely to consider running for office than their male counterparts. When AAPI women doubt their qualifications or electability, we can provide the encouragement they need to make the courageous decision to run for office. This workshop will cover how you can persuade outstanding women in your network to take the next step and run for office.

- Mercedes Blackwood, Director of Strategic Impact, Women's Public Leadership Network
- Jean Sinzdak, Associate Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University
- Moderated by: Tiffany Gardner, CEO, ReflectUS

Breakout Session B: Determining Which Office is Right for You

So you've decided to run for office -- congratulations! Committing to run is one of the largest hurdles for women on their pathway to public office. Now, how can you choose the best office to run for given your experiences and passions? This workshop will guide you to find the right position for you.

- Pakou Hang, Chief Program Officer, Vote Run Lead
- Liuba Grechen Shirley, Founder and CEO, Vote Mama
- Jocelyn Yow, Policy Manager, IGNITE National | Mayor, City of Eastvale
- Moderated by: Abbie Hodgson, Director, The Ascend Fund



AGENDA (ET) continued...

12:30PM-
1:15PM

Networking / Break

1:15PM-
1:50PM

Panel #2: Race and Gender in Politics

Race, gender, age, and appearance are all factors that impact electability and likeability for women of color candidates. This panel will share some of the latest insights from the Barbara Lee Family Foundation in conjunction with the perspectives and lived experiences from an AAPI elected official.

- Senator Stephanie Chang, Michigan State Senate
- Amanda Hunter, Executive Director, Barbara Lee Family Foundation
- Moderated by: Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS

1:55PM-
2:30PM

Panel #3: How to Make the Most of Your Network

One of the greatest assets in your campaign is your network! Your most dedicated donors and volunteers may be among your friends, family, and colleagues. This panel will discuss how to best use and expand your network so that you can grow your campaign.

- Rina Shah, CEO, Rilax Strategies | Sr. Advisor, Republican Women for Progress
- Shu-Yen Wei, Regional Director, State and Local Campaigns, EMILY's List
- Moderated by: Ellen Zeng, Sr. Strategic Operations Manager, Splunk Inc.

2:30PM-
2:45PM

Networking / Break

2:45PM-
3:30PM

Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Record numbers of women of color are running for office across the nation. However, candidates who are women of color face unique barriers on the campaign trail at the intersection of race and gender. This panel will feature women of color who despite these challenges successfully ran for office to create the change they wanted to see in their communities.

- Representative Christina Haswood, MPH, Kansas House of Representatives House District 10
- Representative Jeanné Kapela, Hawai'i State House, District 5 (South Kona–Na'alehu), Vice Chair of the House Education Committee
- Sasha Renée Pérez, Alhambra, CA City Council
- Candace Valenzuela, Vote Mama Texas Chair | 2020 Democratic Nominee for Congress in Texas 24
- Moderated by: Irene B. Bueno, Co-Founder & Partner, NVG



AGENDA (ET) continued...

3:30PM-
4:15PM

Office Hours #1:

How to Run a Campaign Without Being Rich

Some of the largest barriers to running for office are financial. However, you do not need to be wealthy to run for office! Many candidates have run successful campaigns on low budgets through grassroots fundraising and budgeting. This session will cover questions such as "can I run for office with a full time job?" and "how can I run with debt?" so that you can be prepared to run for office.

- Eden McKissick-Hawley, Owner, Tall Poppy LLC | Director, Barrier to Entry PAC

Office Hours #2:

Staying Healthy On and Off the Campaign Trail

Running a campaign isn't easy; but it's important to find ways to take care of yourself for your health, wellbeing, and the success of your campaign. This session will discuss ways to prevent burnout and exhaustion on the campaign trail for a happier and healthier candidacy.

- Frieda K. Edgette, MSC, CPCC, PCC, Founder, Courage to Run | Novos Consulting

4:15PM-
4:25PM

Award Ceremony

- 2021 Spotlight Awardee: Michelle Wu, Boston, MA City Council
- 2021 Spotlight Awardee: Karen K. Goh, Mayor, City of Bakersfield, CA

4:25PM-
4:30PM

Closing Remarks

- Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS

4:30PM-
5:00PM

Networking



MEET THE HONOREES

2021 Women's Collective Spotlight Award

Michelle Wu, Boston, MA City Council



Michelle Wu was elected to the Boston City Council in November 2013 at the age of 28. She is the first Asian-American woman to serve on the Council and the first woman of color to be elected Council President. She was the first candidate to announce a campaign for Mayor of Boston, back in September 2020.

Councilor Wu got her start in City Hall working for Mayor Thomas M. Menino as a Rappaport Fellow in Law and Public Policy, where she helped streamline the city's restaurant permitting process and launch Boston's food truck program. She later served as statewide Constituency Director in the U.S. Senate campaign of her former law professor, Elizabeth Warren.

Councilor Wu has authored more than half of all the legislation that has passed during her time on the City Council, including impactful ordinances that have put Boston on the map nationally--from guaranteeing paid parental leave, prohibiting discrimination in healthcare access for transgender workers, providing language access for all city services, protecting Boston's renters by closing corporate loopholes for short-term rentals, requiring equity in city contracting, and ramping up renewable energy for all residents and small businesses in the city. She has been a national leader advocating for transit justice and outlining Boston's pathway to fare-free public transportation as the foundation for racial and economic justice. In partnership with local and national activists, she has proposed the first municipal-level Green New Deal in the country.

In 2016, Councilor Wu was honored as one of Ten Outstanding Young Leaders by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and among Marie Claire magazine's New Guard: The 50 Most Influential Women in America. In 2017 she received the Massachusetts Democratic Party's highest honor, The Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

Michelle Wu graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. She is fluent in Mandarin and Spanish, and she lives in Roslindale with her husband Conor and their two young sons, Blaise and Cass.



MEET THE HONOREES

2021 Women's Collective Spotlight Award

Karen K. Goh, Mayor, City of Bakersfield, CA



Mayor Karen Goh, elected in November 2016 to serve as the 26th Mayor of the City of Bakersfield, believes in the people of Bakersfield - hard working, productive people of faith and family living at the center of food, fiber, and energy production. Mayor Goh is employing her love for Bakersfield and depth of experience in business, government, and community service to set new goals and build upon our city's strengths.

Mayor Goh was re-elected to a second four-year term in March 2020.

Her focus as mayor:

- Jobs - create more and better paying jobs with positive business climate
- Public Safety - build stronger relationships between police officers and citizens
- Education - the doorway to a better life; have city government and businesses working more closely with schools



MEET THE SPEAKERS

Opening Remarks

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS



Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke is the President & CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Founder and Principal of Arum Group, LLC. She brings nearly 25 years of experience working in political campaigns and specializes in political/non-profit fundraising and political training. Ms. Mielke began her professional career working at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in the Training Division of the Political Department and later for the Clinton/Gore Coordinated '96 campaign as a Regional Field Director in Pennsylvania.

After returning from the '96 campaign, Ms. Mielke worked for the Co-Executive Director at the Presidential Inaugural Committee and later on Vice President Gore's team. Ms. Mielke started fundraising while working at the New Democrat Network PAC and she returned to her roots as the Training Director for the Ron Brown-Paul Tully Institute (BTI), the training arm of the DNC. In 2002, Ms. Mielke started her political consulting firm, specializing in fundraising and political training. Madalene has collaborated with national organizations and federal campaigns of all levels to raise millions of dollars to empower communities of color.

Madalene is a proud graduate of Tulane University, Newcomb College. She serves as a mentor through a variety of collegiate mentoring programs including the Newcomb College Institute Women to Women Mentoring Program and Georgetown University's Politics Mentorship Program.



Opening Remarks

Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27), Chair of CAPAC



Judy Chu was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2009. She represents the 27th Congressional District, which includes Pasadena and the west San Gabriel Valley of southern California.

Rep. Chu currently serves on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over legislation pertaining to taxes, revenues, Social Security, and Medicare. In that Committee, Rep. Chu is a member of the Subcommittees on Health, giving her oversight over healthcare reform and crucial safety net programs, Worker and Family Support, and Oversight.

She also serves on the House Small Business Committee, which has oversight of the Small Business Administration, and is the Chair of the Small Business Oversight Subcommittee.

Chu was first elected to the Board of Education for Garvey School District in 1985. From there, she was elected to the Monterey Park City Council, where she served as Mayor three times. She then was elected to the State Assembly and then California's elected tax board, known as the State Board of Equalization. In 2009, she became the first Chinese American woman elected to Congress in history.



Opening Remarks

Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL)



U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs who was among the first handful of Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2014. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by an RPG and she lost her legs and partial use of her right arm. Senator Duckworth spent the next year recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she quickly became an advocate for her fellow Soldiers. After she recovered, she became Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth as an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs, where she coordinated a joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help end Veteran homelessness, worked to address the unique challenges faced by female as well as Native American Veterans and created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA's accessibility, especially among young Veterans.

In the U.S. House, Duckworth served on the Armed Services Committee and was an advocate for working families and job creation. In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move our state and country forward. In 2018, after Duckworth became the first Senator to give birth while serving in office, she sent a message to working families across the country about the value of family-friendly policies by securing a historic rules change that allows Senators to bring their infant children onto the Senate floor.

Senator Duckworth serves on several influential committees that give her an important platform to advocate for Illinois's working families and entrepreneurs: the Armed Services Committee; the Environment & Public Works Committee; the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee; and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee.

Duckworth is fluent in Thai and Indonesian. She attended college at the University of Hawaii and earned a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University. Following graduation, Duckworth moved to Illinois and began pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at Northern Illinois University and later worked for Rotary International. To this day, the Senator volunteers at local food pantries and participates in community service projects in her free time. Senator Duckworth and her husband Bryan are the proud parents of two daughters, Abigail and Maile.



Opening Remarks

Rep. Aumua Amata (American Samoa)



Amata Coleman Radewagen (Aumua Amata), Republican, was elected as American Samoa's third Member of Congress on November 4, 2014. She is the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from American Samoa, the first Republican woman of Samoan descent in Congress and the most senior Republican elected federal office holder of Asian Pacific heritage.

Congresswoman Amata serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in a senior role as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee. She also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and two of its Subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, her top choice for the islands of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

Prior to being a Member of Congress, the Congresswoman served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leadership Staff for eight years, including Conference scheduling director and supervised the database created to reach out to Asian Pacific and other minority aspirants for congressional staff positions. She also served as scheduling director to U.S. Rep. Philip Crane (R-IL), the dean of the House Republican Conference at the time of his retirement. Earlier in her career, she served at the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She also was the first executive assistant to the first delegate-at-large to Washington from American Samoa.

In 2003 she became the first and only Pacific Islander ever chosen as "Outstanding Woman of the Year" by the National Association of Professional Asian American Women (NAPAW). In 2008, she received the International Leadership Foundation's Visionary Award and in 2013 was presented the "Inspirational Speaker" Award at the Ninth Annual Samoan Athletes Heart of Champions Ceremony in La Mesa, California.

The Congresswoman holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Guam, with additional studies at Loyola-Marymount and George Mason Universities. In 2018, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by her alma mater, the University of Guam, and in 2017, named among the University's Distinguished Alumni. In 2018, she also was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Virginia University of Science and Technology.

She is married to Fred Radewagen, and they have three grown children and two grandchildren.



Opening Remarks

Rep. Young Kim (CA-39)



Congresswoman Young Kim is proud to represent California's 39th District, which includes parts of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

An immigrant, small business owner, community leader, and mother, Young is proud to be one of the first Korean-American women ever to serve in Congress and help all Americans have the chance to achieve their dream just like she did.

As an immigrant to the United States, Young has dedicated her life to giving back to her community. She started her public service as Director of Community Relations and Asian Affairs for former Congressman Ed Royce (CA-39), where she was a key liaison to 39th District and advisor on issues pertaining to the Asian-American community and foreign policy.

Prior to serving in Congress, Young was the first ever Korean-American Republican woman to serve in the California State Assembly. As an Assemblywoman, Young fought to grow jobs, support small businesses, ensure public safety, promote educational opportunities, support veterans, and protect victims of domestic violence.

Young is a small business owner, a long-time community leader, and has been actively involved in numerous organizations throughout the 39th District. She and her husband Charles reside in La Habra and are the proud parents of four grown children – Christine, Kelly, Alvin, and Hannah.



Opening Remarks

Rep. Marilyn Strickland (WA-10)



Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland proudly represents Washington's 10th Congressional District, which covers Pierce County, Thurston County and parts of Mason County. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Strickland is the first African-American to represent Washington State at the federal level, and one of the first Korean-American women elected to Congress in its 230-year history.

Raised in the South Sound, Strickland graduated from Tacoma Public Schools and earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Washington. She went on to earn an MBA from Clark-Atlanta University, a Historically Black College and University.

Strickland's father, who fought in World War II and Korea, met her mother while he was stationed in Korea after the war. Strickland's parents endured discrimination and hardships that she could never imagine. They wanted her to have opportunities they were denied and taught her to work hard, fight for what's right, serve the community, and to stand up for the underdog. Those values continue to inspire Congresswoman Strickland every day as she advocates for Washington's 10th Congressional District in Congress.

Prior to Strickland's election to Congress, she served as Mayor of Tacoma, where she helped transform a city and economy crippled by a deep recession into a destination for families, workers, artists, tourists and entrepreneurs. In addition to attracting over \$1 billion in investment for housing and businesses, she was instrumental in investing over \$500 million in infrastructure for roads, bridges, transportation, and the Port, creating over 40,000 new jobs in the Tacoma region.

As a Freshman Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Strickland carries with her the experience of rebuilding an economy after an economic recession. She will always be a strong voice for change so that our most vulnerable community members are served as we re-build an economy that works for all of us.

Strickland serves as a Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in addition to the House Armed Services Committee. She is also a Member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), the Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Caucus, Democratic Women's Caucus, and the New Democrat Coalition.

Congresswoman Strickland resides in Tacoma, Washington with her husband.



Panel #1: Asian American & Pacific Islander "Firsts"

Board Trustee Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i, Vice President & Trustee, Jefferson Elementary School District Governing Board



Manufou Liaiga-Anoa'i, is a proud San Francisco native and first generation Samoan-American.

A product of public education, she was re-elected this past November to serve her third term on the Jefferson Elementary School District in Daly City and currently serves as a Commissioner on the City of Daly City Personnel Board, San Mateo County Arts Commission - District 5 Representative, Board Member to P.I.E.F.E.S.T. - Pacific Islanders Encouraging Fun, Engineering, Science & Technology and on the Board of Directors for REACH San Mateo County.

For the past ten years she has been a Commissioner to the San Mateo County and Past Vice President on the Commission of Status Women, is a Commissioner on the City of Daly City Arts and Culture Commission, Congresswoman Jackie Speier's Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center Board and Lowell High School Alumni Board of Directors.

Manufou recently joined the Innovate Public Schools team as Regional Vice President for SanJose and previously served as the Health and Nutrition Services Manager for Izzi Early Education (formerly IHSD - Institute for Human and Social Development). Her agency administers Head Start and Early Head Start - Early Childhood Education sites throughout San Mateo County.

In 2009, she founded Pacific Islander Community Partnership whose mission is to "Engage, Educate & Empower Our Pacific Communities" and in 2011 created Camp Unity - Polynesian Pacific Islander Summer Enrichment Program which has served 8,000 Bay Area students over the past ten years.

In May of 2019, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond appointed her as Co-Chair to the Closing the Gap Initiative where she continues to advocate for equity, inclusion and access.

Her leadership has been recognized and celebrated as Woman of the Year in the California Assembly, in the City and County of San Francisco by Mayors Willie Brown and Edwin Lee, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and nationally through the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.



Panel #1: Asian American & Pacific Islander "Firsts"

Representative Tram T. Nguyen, Esq., 18th Essex District, Massachusetts House of Representatives



Tram Nguyen is the State Representative for the 18th Essex District, which includes parts of Andover, Boxford, North Andover, and Tewksbury. She is a first generation Vietnamese-American immigrant and was the first person in her family to graduate from college and law school. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Tufts University and a Juris Doctor from Northeastern University School of Law.

From the start of her legal career until she took office, Tram worked at Greater Boston Legal Services as a legal aid attorney and advocated for domestic violence survivors, workers, seniors, veterans, and children. She also engaged in legislative advocacy and worked with statewide coalitions, lawmakers, and lawmaking bodies to push for laws that address issues of racial and economic justice and protect the rights of the most vulnerable populations.

Tram was first elected into office in November 2018 and is the first Vietnamese American woman in elected office in the Commonwealth, the first Vietnamese American elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the first Asian American on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, and the first Asian American woman to serve as vice chair of a committee. Tram is currently vice chair of the Labor & Workforce Development Committee, and a member of the House Committee on Human Resources and Employee Engagement; the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery; and the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.

As an attorney, she received the Lawrence Bar Association Merit Award, the Vietnamese American Bar Association Public Service Award, the Reginald Heber Smith Award for innovation and excellence in legal advocacy, and the UAW Social Justice Award. As a legislator, she's been given the Women's Empowerment Award (2019), Asian American Women Political Initiative Legislator of the Year Award (2019), YDMA Young Democratic Elected of the Year Award (2020), and Council of State Government 20 under 40 Award (2020).



Panel #1: Asian American & Pacific Islander "Firsts"

The Honorable Dr. Martha Wong, Chair, Texas State Library and Archives Commission



Dr. Martha J. Wong, a native Houstonian, is a third generation Chinese American. Wong is the first Asian American elected to the Houston City Council and the first Asian American woman elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Her history making election occurred on December 4, 1993, when she captured 62 percent of the votes in a run-off for the District C seat and served three terms. In 2002 Martha made history again by beating a 22year incumbent and became vice chair of two House Committees. Dr. Wong served two terms in the Texas House.

Martha has a long list of firsts: first Asian American School Principal in the State of Texas and the first Asian American Associate Superintendent in HISD; first Asian-American recognized by the Houston Federation of Women's Award for Excellence in Education; first Asian American in the Texas

Women's Hall of Fame. Recently, the first Asian appointed by the Texas Governor to chair a State Commission, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and the first Asian to be honored by the Texas Women's University's Jane Nelson Institute for Women's Leadership.

Dr. Wong earned a Bachelor degree from the University of Texas and a Masters and Doctorate from the University of Houston, where she has also been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by the University of Houston Alumni Association and the UH College of Education Alumni.

Dr. Wong is a recognized leader in both the Asian American and the greater Houston Community. She was been recognized for community service and dedication by the Greater Houston Women's Foundation, the Houston Lion's Eye Bank, the National Conference of Christian and Jews, the Texas Asian Republican Caucus, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Upper Kirby District, TREK, and the Texas Council of Women School Executives, the Chinese Community Center, the Variety Children's Charity, Greater Houston OCA, The University of Texas at Austin's Community Leadership Circle, the National Chinese American Citizen's Alliance, the Asian Network Association and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association with the George H.W. Bush Award for Service. In 2020, Governor Abbot appointed Dr. Wong as the Chair of the Texas Library and Archives Commission.

Martha J. Wong is a unique woman who has truly exemplified the best of two cultures. She has made Houston and Texas a better place to live through her work with civic organizations and service as a Houston City Council Member and Texas State Representative In addition, her education profession has made Texas education better for students and educators. Martha has been a key player in bringing people together and providing leadership in untouched areas.



Panel #1: Asian American & Pacific Islander "Firsts"

Mai Xiong, Macomb County Board of Commissioners



Mai Xiong was elected in 2020 as Macomb County Commissioner in District 2 (Warren and Center Line).

Xiong is of Hmong descent and was born in a refugee camp in Thailand in 1984. Xiong and her family moved to Ohio in 1987.

She was accepted to the College for Creative Studies and moved to Warren in 2003. Xiong graduated with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2007. She has worked in the advertising, marketing and web development industries for over 15 years.

While pregnant with her fourth child in 2018, Xiong built an e-commerce website and founded the modern Hmong American clothing brand Mai&Co. The company quickly grew out of her home and in 2019, Mai&Co opened its first storefront at East Twelve Mile Road in Warren.

Xiong is married to her best friend Adam Kue and together they have four children.



Breakout Session A: How to Ask a Woman to Run for Office

Mercedes Blackwood, Director of Strategic Impact, Women's Public Leadership Network



Mercedes leads WPLN's organizational development and strategy efforts. She most recently worked in Washington, D.C. at the International Republican Institute (IRI), an international organization committed to advancing and supporting democratic institutions worldwide. There, she was a Senior Program Associate in the Women's Democracy Network (WDN.) During her time, she supported programming in over 20 countries around the world. Notably, spearheading WDN's Women, Peace, and Security programming, which focuses on women's political inclusion during conflict, transition of power, and reconciliation efforts—specifically in countries enduring heavy militancy and terrorism.

Prior to IRI, Mercedes worked for U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham and for the Republican National Committee on several state and federal level campaigns across the United States. Prior to these positions, she was an athlete trainee for the U.S.A. Bobsled and Skeleton team where she trained for the winter Olympics. She hails from the great state of Idaho and is a proud graduate of the University of Idaho where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science.



Breakout Session A: How to Ask a Woman to Run for Office

Tiffany Gardner, CEO, ReflectUS



Tiffany Gardner brings over a decade of extensive international experience in human rights advocacy and domestic public interest. She has worked on women's rights, human rights and grassroots organizing throughout Africa, Southeast Asia, and the United States. She worked with the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations International Law Commission and Human Rights Watch and recently was the co-founder and director of the One World Exchange Program for under-represented U.S. college students and organized international solidarity coalitions. She is a former Mergers & Acquisitions associate at the New York law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. She received a B.A. from Yale University, a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a LL.M. in human rights law from Columbia University Law School.



Breakout Session A: How to Ask a Woman to Run for Office

Jean Sinzdak, Associate Director, Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers University



As associate director of the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), Jean Sinzdak is responsible for developing strategic initiatives and projects, as well as general administrative oversight. An experienced program director with a strong background in women's leadership development and civic engagement initiatives, she directs CAWP's Program for Women Public Officials, which aims to increase the impact of women in politics and make political women's leadership more effective through national, regional, and local events and programs for women officeholders, candidates, and campaign operatives. She is currently expanding the national network of Ready to Run® of campaign trainings for women, a bipartisan effort to recruit and train women to run for all levels of office.

Sinzdak also oversees CAWP's New Jersey initiatives, including Ready to Run® New Jersey and the Bipartisan Coalition for Women's Appointments. She was a leader in the development of the Diversity Initiative of Ready to Run® New Jersey, designed to attract more women of color to the political process. She is the project director of Teach a Girl to Lead®, a national education and awareness campaign to re-envision what public leaders look like, inspire girls and young women to follow in their footsteps, and make women's political leadership visible to America's youth. Prior to joining CAWP, she served as director of outreach and communications at the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, DC. Earlier, she worked at the Council for Urban Economic Development, also in Washington, DC. Sinzdak received a Master of Social Work, specializing in social and economic development, from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and a B.A. in English from the University of Scranton.



Breakout Session B: Determining Which Office is Right for You

Pakou Hang, Chief Program Officer, Vote Run Lead



Pakou Hang graduated from Yale University where she studied Political Science, and specifically focused her research on revolutions in Latin American. She also received a Masters from the University of Minnesota in Political Science with specialties in political psychology and voting behavior. After college, Pakou spent two years in Boston as an Analyst with KLD Research and Analytics, a firm advising socially responsible investments. There she managed the portfolio of the financial services industry and helped create the very first indigenous people's social screen, which evaluated companies on the S&P500 based on their interactions with indigenous communities.

Back in Minnesota, Pakou successfully ran the 2002 campaign of Mee Moua -- the very first Hmong American elected to a state legislature in America, and thereafter, served as the Deputy Political Director to Senator Paul Wellstone's 2002 re-election campaign. Pakou has also served as the Election Protection Director for the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party, the National Field Director for the Children's Defense Fund and ran for public office herself, albeit, unsuccessfully but unapologetically. Lastly, building on her roots in agriculture, Pakou co-founded and spent eight years as the Executive Director of the Hmong American Farmers Association, a nonprofit committed to building intergenerational and community wealth for Hmong farmers and their families. She is a recipient of the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award, the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, the Bush Leadership Fellowship and most recently, the Marshall Memorial Fellowship, which strives to bolster trans-Atlantic relations. For many years, Pakou served as a trainer for Wellstone Action, APIAVote, New American Leaders and Vote Run Lead. Her history as an organizer and campaigner and her skills as a political scientist and movement leader make her an ideal addition to the leadership team of Vote Run Lead.



Breakout Session B: Determining Which Office is Right for You

Abbie Hodgson, Director, The Ascend Fund



Abbie is the director of The Ascend Fund, a collaborative fund dedicated to accelerating the pace of change towards gender parity in U.S. politics. To date, The Ascend Fund has invested almost \$6 million in nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to train women to run for office and win.

Abbie's career in politics spans more than two decades, during which time she has worked on more than 100 campaigns, all across the country, from the top of ticket, all the way down the ballot. She also served as speechwriter for Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius and as chief of staff to the House Minority Leader of the Kansas Legislature.

Abbie earned a PhD from the University of Kansas where her dissertation focused on how the number of women in politics could be increased by improving the ways organizations recruit, train, and support women in the process of running for office. Having run for office herself, Abbie understands the difficult decision to run for office and the challenges women candidates encounter on the campaign trail.



Breakout Session B: Determining Which Office is Right for You

Liuba Grechen Shirley, Founder and CEO, Vote Mama



Throughout her career, Liuba has forged strategic partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit sector organizations to tackle issues including economic development, access to health care, and paid family leave. She has also fought for increased accountability and less corruption in the use of international aid funds.

In 2018, Liuba ran a historic congressional campaign to represent New York's 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She received the highest vote share of any Democrat to run against Peter King in 25 years. Liuba raised over \$2 million with no corporate PAC money and built a grassroots movement of volunteers that knocked over 250,000 doors. She petitioned the Federal Election Commission and became the first woman in history to receive federal approval to spend Campaign Funds on Childcare.

In 2019 and 2020, Liuba was selected as one of Long Island's 100 Most Powerful People by City & State and was named to the Long Island Business News 40 Under 40 list. Together with UN Women, she launched the #IAmParent campaign for Parental Leave and was selected as a Global Champion for Women's Economic Empowerment. She has appeared on CNN, The Today Show, and MSNBC and featured in The Washington Post, TIME Magazine, and Huffington Post. Liuba holds an MBA with specializations in Management and Economics from the NYU Stern School of Business, and a BA in Politics and Russian from NYU. She lives on Long Island with her husband Christopher and children, Mila, Nicholas, and Andrew.



Breakout Session B: Determining Which Office is Right for You

Jocelyn Yow, Policy Manager, IGNITE National | Mayor, City of Eastvale



Mayor Jocelyn Yow has nearly ten years of experience in politics and has worked at all levels of government. She won her election for Eastvale City Council in Riverside County with a 40 point margin at the age of 23, and she went on to be the first woman of color serving on the city council. She took the helm as mayor of Eastvale in December 2020 and — at the age of 25 — became the youngest woman of color to serve as mayor of a California city.

In addition to serving as the mayor of her city, Yow is also the policy manager at IGNITE National. Prior to joining IGNITE, she worked for the U.S. House of Representative. As the daughter of a Chinese-Malaysian immigrant and a Vietnamese refugee, she has deep empathy for immigrants and is committed to uplifting her community.

Yow obtained her master's degree in government from Harvard Extension; bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley; and her associate's degree from Norco College. You can reach her at jocelyn@ignitenational.org.



Panel #2: Race and Gender in Politics

Senator Stephanie Chang, Michigan State Senate



Sen. Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman to be elected to the Michigan Legislature, worked as a community organizer in Detroit for nearly a decade before serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives.

She served as state director for NextGen Climate Michigan, alumni engagement and evaluation coordinator for the Center for Progressive Leadership in Michigan, deputy director for the Campaign for Justice and as an organizer for Michigan United/One United Michigan. She also worked as a community engagement coordinator for the James and Grace Lee Boggs School and assistant to Grace Lee Boggs, an activist, writer, and speaker.

The senator also is a co-founder and past president of Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan, and she served as a mentor with the Detroit Asian Youth Project. She is a founder and board member of Rising Voices of Asian American Families and serves on the board of the Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center.

In the state House, Sen. Chang led the way on air quality protection, education, criminal justice reforms, improving economic opportunities, and affordable, safe drinking water. She passed bipartisan legislation on a range of issues including female genital mutilation, nitrous oxide "whip-its", reentry services for wrongfully convicted individuals who were exonerated, and more. She quickly earned her colleagues' respect and was named chair of the Progressive Women's Caucus in her second term. She also served on the leadership team for the House Democratic Caucus both terms and was a co-founder of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus.

Chang earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and master's degrees in public policy and social work from the University of Michigan. She lives in Detroit with her husband, Sean Gray, and two young daughters.



Panel #2: Race and Gender in Politics

Amanda Hunter, Executive Director, Barbara Lee Family Foundation



As Executive Director, Amanda Hunter leads the Barbara Lee Family Foundation's nonpartisan efforts to advance women's political equality and increase women's representation. Prior to becoming Executive Director, Amanda was the Foundation's Research and Communications Director. She has covered the Foundation's research on the role of gender in politics on PBS NewsHour, NPR, and CNN, as well as in the New York Times, the Washington Post, Vox, the Los Angeles Times, and Politico.

Previously, Amanda served as Director of Marketing and Communications at The Phillips Collection in Washington, DC, America's first museum of modern art, and as Senior Press Representative at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington. She also served as Deputy Communications Director at the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the trade association for record companies.



Panel #3: How to Make the Most of Your Network

Rina Shah, CEO, Rilax Strategies | Sr. Advisor, Republican Women for Progress



Rina Shah is a Washington, DC-based political advisor, reformer, and commentator who also wears the hats of public innovator and serial entrepreneur. Over the past decade, she has gained global recognition as a geopolitical expert – having advised nearly 40 political campaigns and initiatives, at various levels of U.S. government while providing analysis on international media outlets and to multinational corporations seeking to understand U.S. public policy. At the beginning of 2020, she became the Founder of Republican Women for Biden and at the end of 2020, she became a Contributing Writer for The Week magazine. Her children's book centered on the themes of global citizenry and civic engagement will debut in late fall of 2021.

Notable highlights in Rina Shah's political career include senior leadership roles on two U.S. Presidential campaigns, and prior to that, serving as a senior aide in the Capitol Hill offices of two Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Shah was elected as a Delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention; however, during an appearance on national cable television channel FOX News, she became the first Delegate in the country to speak out against then-presumptive nominee, candidate Donald Trump. Subsequently, the DC Republican Party unjustly unseated her. After a high-profile legal battle through which she won and was reinstated as a Delegate by the Republican National Committee, mainstream U.S. media dubbed her as "the poster girl for the #NeverTrump movement." In August of 2016, Shah was tapped as Chief Spokesperson and a top strategist to Independent presidential candidate Evan McMullin's campaign. Later that year, she was also honored to receive BMW automaker's 'Pay It 4Ward' award "for lifting others as she rises."

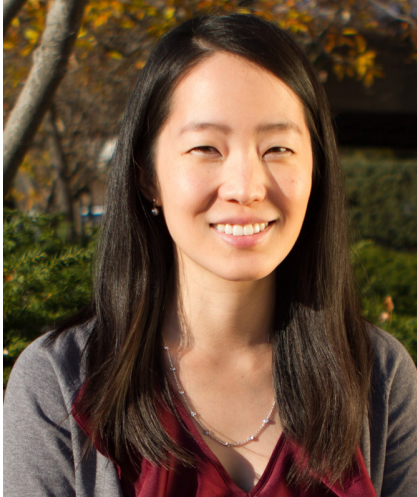
Shah is a Co-Founder and Emeritus Board Member of Women's Public Leadership Network and is also a member of the Advisory Boards of Running Start, Republican Women for Progress, Represent Women, and VoteRunLead; each of these nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations is working in unique ways to support and bring more women into U.S. government and politics. In 2019, she was a headlining speaker at the Independent Women's Forum (IWF) "March for All Women" Washington, DC rally. More recently, in May 2021, Shah was a headlining speaker at the "Solidarity Against AAPI Hate" rally on the National Mall.

Rina Shah holds a Master of Public Health from the George Washington University, a certificate in Executive Leadership from Cornell University, and is a graduate of the Women's Leadership Program at Yale University's School of Management. She is a native of West Virginia and the proud daughter of immigrants from Uganda and India. Rina Shah resides in the Washington, DC metropolitan area with her husband, Dr. Niteesh Bharara, and their two children.



Panel #3: How to Make the Most of Your Network

Shu-Yen Wei, Regional Director, State and Local Campaigns, EMILY's List



Shu-Yen is a regional director for the state and local campaigns team at EMILY's List, the nation's largest resource for women in politics. She helps recruit, train and advise Democratic, pro-choice women to win up and down the ballot. She previously managed a congressional race in Ohio, as well as House of Delegates and State Assembly races in Virginia and New Jersey. She has also held press roles as the Northeast Regional Communications Director at the Democratic National Committee in 2016 and press secretary for the Louisiana coordinated campaign in 2014.



Panel #3: How to Make the Most of Your Network

Ellen Zeng, Sr. Strategic Operations Manager, Splunk Inc.



Ellen Zeng is a Sr. Strategic Operations Manager at Splunk. Splunk technology is designed to investigate, monitor, analyze and act on data at any scale. Previously, she was Executive Director of With Honor Action, where she worked with military veterans running for office and oversaw efforts to advocate for cross-partisan legislation. Earlier in her career, she was a Deputy Political Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and a counsel at the U.S. Senate Rules Committee. She received her B.S. in electrical engineering from University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree cum laude from Harvard.



Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Irene B. Bueno, Co-Founder & Partner, NVG



Before co-founding NVG, Irene served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to the President in the White House Chief of Staff's Office and Domestic Policy Council and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Early in her career, she worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) and Congressman Edward Roybal (D-CA).

Irene serves on the Planned Parenthood Action Fund PAC Committee and is a leader in the national Asian Pacific Islander American community. She serves on the Asian American Justice Center's National Advisory Council, Asian American Action Fund Board, and on the Advisory Board of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS).

Irene has been recognized for her service to the Asian American and Filipino American communities by the Filipino American Women's Network and the President of the Philippines.

A California native, Irene earned a Juris Doctor from Hastings College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from University of California, Berkeley. She is a member of the California and District of Columbia Bars and was selected to participate in the Coro Foundation Fellowship Program in Public Affairs in San Francisco, California.



Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Representative Christina Haswood, MPH, Kansas House of Representatives House District 10



Representative Christina Haswood represents Kansas House District 10 which covers the southeast of Douglas County including Lawrence and Baldwin City. Rep. Haswood is Dine' (Navajo) who grew up in District 10 and even started her higher education journey at Haskell Indian Nations University where she earned her A.S. in Community Health, then transferred to Arizona State University where she earned her B.S. in Public Health, and then graduated from the University of Kansas Medical Center where she earned her Masters in Public Health (MPH) in May of 2020. Rep. Haswood currently sits on the committees of Water, Health & Human Services, Agriculture, and on-call for Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations.



Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Representative Jeanné Kapela, Hawai'i State House, District 5 (South Kona–Na'alehu),
Vice Chair of the House Education Committee



Rep. Jeanné Kapela serves in the Hawai'i State House of Representatives, where she is the Vice Chair for the Committee on Education. Before holding elected office, Jeanné served her community as a board member for the Kona Coffee Farmers Association and Kona Coffee Cultural Festival. She has also worked as a service provider for survivors of sexual exploitation. She is the first woman and Native Hawaiian to represent her district. Jeanné is committed to strengthening racial, gender, environmental, and economic justice, and pursuing public policy that uplifts people and our planet.



Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Sasha Renée Pérez, Alhambra, CA City Council



Sasha Renée Pérez is a City Councilwoman for the City of Alhambra. Her historic campaign was endorsed by the Democratic Party and a coalition of progressive organizations, including labor unions, environmental groups, housing advocates, and more.

Mayor Pérez was born and raised in Alhambra, where her family has lived for over 50 years. Her father is an electrician and her mother is a social worker. After graduating from Mark Keppel High School, Pérez became the first in her family to graduate from college, earning degrees in Political Science and Economics from California State University, Los Angeles.

In college, Pérez led a statewide campaign that successfully secured \$97 million dollars to increase college access and college affordability for all California students. During the same time, she was elected to her local neighborhood council and worked on issues such as neighborhood beautification and transportation.

Since graduating, Sasha has continued her work on pressing policy issues, led statewide campaigns, and educated constituents from across California on how to effectively fight for policies to improve their community. In the last 10 years she has played an important role in passing historic legislation that increased healthcare access, expanded government transparency, and provided protections for victims of violent crimes.

On November 3rd, 2020, Sasha was elected to Alhambra's City Council, making her the youngest woman to serve in the city's history and the youngest female mayor in San Gabriel Valley history. She continues to be an active community member volunteering her time at food banks, serving as a Delegate to the California Democratic Party, and a board member to Asian Youth Center, a 501(C)3 non-profit dedicated to empowering low-income, immigrant, and at-risk youth. In her free time, she enjoys supporting local restaurants, and reading with her cats.



Panel #4: How to Run as a Woman of Color

Candace Valenzuela, Vote Mama Texas Chair | 2020 Democratic Nominee for Congress in Texas 24



Candace Valenzuela is a mother, an educator, and a lifelong Texan. She overcame incredible odds growing up, and she has since devoted her life to fighting for opportunities for others. She first ran for her local school board to improve Texas schools, becoming the first Latina and first African-American woman to serve on the Carrollton-Farmers Branch school board. Seeing the entrenched, systemic origins of issues facing children and families, Candace ran for Congress. As the Democratic nominee in Texas' 24th District in 2020, Candace and her team built a Democratic infrastructure that had not been seen for decades in suburban Texas. Sadly, she lost by 1% of the vote. Nonetheless, Candace is proud that many of her volunteers and staff were mothers, young people, and people of color, and have gone on to do more organizing and electoral work. Candace is currently a nonprofit manager and the Texas Chair for Vote Mama, a national organization devoted to electing mothers in all levels of office.



Office Hours #1: How to Run a Campaign Without Being Rich

Eden McKissick-Hawley, Owner, Tall Poppy LLC | Director, Barrier to Entry PAC



Eden McKissick-Hawley is a fundraising and political consultant who has helped nonprofits, progressive campaigns, and political action committees raise over \$40M. Eden uses a combination of fundraising tactics including high and low-dollar solicitation methods to help teams build capacity, act strategically, and win.

Eden specializes in working with candidates who belong at the table, but who we don't see run for office nearly enough: women of color, LGBTQ folks, young people, and people from working-class backgrounds.

Eden currently serves as the founding director for Barrier To Entry PAC, a political action committee focused on decreasing financial barriers in the campaign space. She believes that politics is for everyone, regardless of one's ability to self-fund. She hopes to fight for a more equitable campaign model through this work.

www.tallpoppyfundraising.com
www.barriertoentrypac.com
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Office Hours #2: Staying Healthy On and Off the Campaign Trail

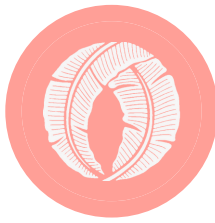
Frieda K. Edgette, MSC, CPCC, PCC, Founder, Courage to Run | Novos Consulting



Frieda K. Edgette is a former public health operative and county commissioner turned award-winning leadership coach, organizational strategist and political well-being pioneer. Blending the neurosciences and behavioral sciences with best practices from political intelligence, authentic leadership, social psychology, wellness and elite athletics, Frieda has facilitated more than 200 civic change initiatives on five continents, and helped more than 2,000 emergent to veteran executives lead through society's most complex challenges.

Her client list includes C-Suite campaign operatives, US secretaries and parliamentary ministers, and organizations such as the United States Air Force, United States Embassy in Turkey, Office of Leadership and Organizational Development in Office of the Secretary of Defense Policy, county Diversity and Inclusion Programs, numerous school districts, Biden For President, Stacey Abrams for Governor, Enroll America, Onward Together, Emerge, Veterans Campaign and Future Now. Frieda designed and instructed a course on resilient leadership at Stanford Continuing Studies - the first of its kind, and is on the adjunct faculty of the George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management, teaching a course on stereotypes and politics. Frieda has published in the Harvard Business Review, GOVERNING, US News & World Report, Roll Call, POLITICO, European Heart Journal and Mindful, and has appeared on Fox News, Sirius POTUS, Women's Running and C-SPAN Washington Journal on issues of wellness and resilience for civic professionals. In 2018, she founded Courage to Run, the nation's premier running series and civic leadership community committed to being healthy to lead effectively in civic life today, naming her a 2021 Goldie All Star and Reed Award recipient. Frieda is a professional International Coach Federation coach, as well as a Co-Active Professional Certified Coach. She has a MSc in Organizational and Social Psychology from the London School of Economics and a BA in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Follow her @friedakedgette



About APAICS

Founded by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta in 1994, The APAICS is a national non-partisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building the Asian Pacific American (APA) political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office. APAICS programs focus on leadership development and filling the political pipeline for AAPIs to pursue public office at the local, state, and federal levels, as well as other careers in public policy.

APAICS

Building the Asian Pacific American political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office.

INSPIRE

identifying future leaders for tomorrow

EDUCATE

building public policy knowledge

EMPOWER

developing individual leadership

CONNECT

bridging local, state, and national politics & AAPI community

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