



## **AAPI Young Leaders Summit 2020**

*Day I: Growing Your Network*

Monday, July 20, 2020 @ 4 PM ET

*As Co-Chair of WHIAAPI, US Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao commences this series of virtual events with special opening remarks, addressing young AAPIs on the importance of “Making a Difference: Contributing to Society”. We will then turn the program over to a panel discussion with successful AAPIs to discuss the importance of mentorship and networking as well as share advice and tips on navigating the workplace in both the private and public sector. Conversations will also highlight resources and organizations that support AAPI professionals in business, civics and law. Following the panel discussion will be a brief professional development workshop on maximizing working and learning from home. During this time of unprecedented challenges, we hope this session provides encouragements and sound advice as you navigate the current uncertainties.*

### **AGENDA**

#### **Welcome Remarks & Introduction of Special Guest Speaker**

Tina Wei Smith, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

#### **Special Guest Speaker on “Making a Difference: Contributing to Society”**

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

#### **Introduction of Panel Discussion and Special Guest Moderator, Ms. Chiling Tong**

Rebecca Soo, WHIAAPI Intern

#### **Panel Discussion: *Growing Your Network***

- Ms. Chiling Tong, President/CEO, National ACE (moderator)
- Mrs. Patrice Ju, Senior Managing
- Judge Joe Jefferson, City of Englewood, Colorado
- Mr. Raj Shah, Senior VP, Fox Corporation
- Mr. Joe Zhu, Playground Capital & Leaders Forum

#### **Professional Development: Maximizing Working & Learning from Home**

- Part I: Maximizing Working & Learning from Home with Mr. Teddy Liaw of NexRep
- Part II: Presentation on Using Social Media for Professional Networking

## SELECTED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**The Honorable Elaine L. Chao**  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation

Secretary Elaine Chao is currently the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. This is her second cabinet position. She served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 2001 to January 2009 and is the first Asian American woman to be appointed to the President's cabinet in American history.

Secretary Chao comes to the U.S. Department of Transportation with extensive experience in the transportation sector. Early in her career, she specialized in transportation financing in the private sector. She began her executive career in public service working on transportation and trade issues at the White House.

She then served as Deputy Maritime Administrator, U. S. Department of Transportation; Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission; and, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. As U.S. Secretary of Transportation, she is a strong advocate for safety, and the importance of infrastructure and innovation in our nation's economic competitiveness and growth.

Secretary Chao has a distinguished career in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. An immigrant who arrived in America at the age of eight speaking no English, she received her citizenship at the age of 19. Her experience transitioning to a new country has motivated her to devote most of her professional life to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to build better lives for themselves and their families. As U.S. Secretary of Labor, she focused on increasing the competitiveness of America's workforce in a global economy, promoted job creation, and achieved record in workplace safety and health.

Prior to the Department of Labor, Secretary Chao was President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of America, where she restored public trust and confidence in one of America's premier institutions of private charitable giving, after it had been tarnished by financial mismanagement and abuse. Secretary Chao also served as Director of the Peace Corps, where she established the first programs in the Baltic nations and the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Secretary Chao earned her MBA from the Harvard Business School and an economics degree from Mount Holyoke College. Honored for her extensive record of accomplishments and public service, she is the recipient of 37 honorary doctorate degrees.

Secretary Chao is a resident of Jefferson County, Kentucky. Prior to her appointment as Secretary of Transportation, she was a Distinguished Fellow at Hudson Institute. She is the eldest of six daughters born to Dr. James S.C. Chao and the late Mrs. Ruth Mulan Chu Chao.



**Tina Wei Smith**  
Executive Director  
White House Initiative on AAPIs

Tina Wei Smith was appointed as the eighth Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) on December 9, 2019. In this capacity, Ms. Smith is responsible for directing the efforts of the Initiative and of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs), including overseeing an Interagency Working Group.

Prior to joining the Initiative, Ms. Smith spent over 5 years at Asbury University as the first director of the Global Engagement Office. In this role, Ms. Smith created

new international education initiatives and curriculum to increase cross-cultural understanding and prepare students for an increasingly global economy. Ms. Smith previously worked at The Heritage Foundation in the Office of Distinguished Fellow, Elaine L. Chao. She previously served at the U.S. Department of Labor in the Office of the Secretary and the Office of Public Liaison. She also served in the U.S. House of Representatives and staffed Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen (NJ-11).

Ms. Smith immigrated to the United States with her parents at a very young age, and she acquired her U.S. citizenship in high school. Despite her family's humble beginnings and the challenges of being newcomers, she witnessed first-hand how she and her family have been blessed by the many opportunities here in America. As a result, Ms. Smith has committed herself to public service and giving back to help others access opportunities to improve their lives and their future.

Ms. Smith is a 2015 Fulbright grant recipient, where she spent time supporting international education and bridging partnerships between universities. Ms. Smith is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (B.A.) and the University of Michigan (Master of Public Policy and M.A. in Higher Education). Ms. Smith and her husband, Kevin, call Kentucky home and they are proud parents to three young children.



**Chiling Tong**  
President and CEO  
National ACE

Chiling Tong has extensive domestic and international experience in economic and business development, with a focus on researching and enhancing the growth of small and minority business enterprises competing in the global market. Tong's career spans the private, non-profit and public sectors. She is the President and CEO of The Asian & Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE). National ACE's mission is to serve as a strong advocate of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) business interests and effect positive change on all issues that enhance and advance the goals and aspirations of AAPI business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate leaders. In 2017, Chiling Tong was named

Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce and in the White House with the President due to her significant contribution to minority business development.

Chiling Tong is the Founding President of the International Leadership Foundation (ILF). Over 20 years, Tong has built a strong nationwide network of 20 chapters consisting of entrepreneurs and community leaders, that promotes the civic awareness, public service and economic effectiveness of the Asian American Pacific Islander community. She was the Chief of Staff and Associate Director at the Minority Business Development Agency. She helped minority enterprises and small disadvantaged businesses obtain contracts and loans by identifying opportunities. Tong previously served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of Commerce. Tong was responsible for overseeing the treatment of American companies by Asia and Pacific countries. In 2015, Tong was appointed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to be a Director of the Congressional Awards Board for young leaders.

Tong was also an Ash Center Research fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. Previously, Tong worked to promote California's economic development, trade and employment services. She was the Director of California's Office of Trade and Investment in Taipei, Taiwan, and served as Assistant Secretary for International Trade in the California Trade and Commerce Agency. Tong has also worked for the California State Senate Minority Leaders Office as the Chief Asian American Affairs Advisor. Tong was awarded a Coro Public Affairs Fellowship and the Chairperson of the Los Angeles County Community Action Board. Tong was also a television anchor and reporter for China TV, a Los Angeles-based international television station.



**Joe Jefferson**  
Presiding Municipal Judge  
Englewood, CO

Joe Jefferson is a Colorado native who grew up in the City of Englewood. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in 2002 and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Denver in 2008. Judge Jefferson was admitted to the Colorado bar in 2009 and the U.S. District Court, District of Colorado in 2011. He was the Principal Attorney of the Jefferson Legal Group, P.C. in Englewood from 2009 to 2018 and his family owns the Twin Dragon Restaurant, which has proudly served the Englewood community for over 40 years.

Judge Jefferson served on Englewood City Council from 2007 to 2018, representing Council District 1 and served as mayor from 2015 to 2018. Mayor Jefferson was the first known Chinese American mayor in Colorado history. He was elected as Englewood's Presiding Municipal Judge in November of 2017 as the only truly publicly elected judge in Colorado. Judge Jefferson transitioned from mayor to presiding judge in January of 2018.



**Patrice Ju**  
Senior Manager  
Deloitte Consulting

Patrice Ju is a Senior Manager at Deloitte Consulting, with 12+ years of management consulting experience helping organizations through large scale change and organizational transformations. She works with federal agencies facing challenges around HR business strategy, talent management, employee engagement, and org change management. Additionally, Patrice is the founder and career coach of "Carpe Diem Careers" having worked with 400+ individual clients in their job searches, resume critiques, interview prep, and salary negotiation. In the community, Patrice runs a local online group of 10,000 parents, sharing recommendations on local businesses, parenting tips, and local resources.

Patrice holds an MBA from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and a Master of HR from the University of Illinois. She lives in Potomac, MD with her husband and three kids.



**Raj Shah**  
Senior Vice President  
Fox Corporation

Raj Shah has nearly 15 years of experience at the highest levels of national politics, corporate affairs and public policy. A seasoned veteran of three presidential campaigns, Shah currently serves as Senior Vice President at Fox Corporation.

Prior to joining Fox, Shah served as Chair of Ballard Media Group, advising Fortune 500 companies and leading trade associations on communications strategy, crisis management and issue advocacy.

From 2017-2019, Shah served in senior roles in the White House. He oversaw strategy and communications for the successful effort to confirm Justice Brett

Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, and served as Principal Deputy Press Secretary, on the front lines of the White House's efforts to drive the administration's message.

Described by ABC News' Jonathan Karl as "one of the Trump administration's most effective communicators," Shah became a recognized face on national television, regularly appearing on CNN, ABC, NBC, MSNBC, Fox News, Fox Business, NPR, Al Jazeera, CNN International, and countless other regional, national and international news outlets.

Behind the scenes, he managed the White House's efforts on crisis communications, policy rollouts, domestic issues and agency communications, and took a leading role in preparing the President, cabinet members and senior officials for media appearances and congressional testimony. According to Fox News he "made himself invaluable to the White House staff for his political research skills."

Prior to joining the White House, Shah served as Research Director and Deputy Communications Director at the Republican National Committee as the party retook the White House and held both houses of Congress. Previously, Shah was co-founding partner of America Rising LLC, a premiere political communications consulting firm. He also served as a Senior Public Policy Specialist at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, where he worked with legal teams to help clients face politically sensitive congressional investigations.

Shah was named to the POLITICO Playbook "New Guard" Power List and has been featured in C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" series. He has spoken at former Adviser to President Obama David Axelrod's University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, and before numerous organizations on public policy issues. The son of proud immigrants, Shah was included on the National Association of Asian Pacifics in Politics and Public Affairs (NAAPPPA) "40 under 40" list. He grew up in Connecticut and attended Cornell University.



**Tianyi "Joe" Zhu**

Partner, Nanjing Wande Group  
Managing Partner of Playground Capital

Tianyi "Joe" Zhu is an international entrepreneur and angel investor, recognized in 2017 by the Asian-American Business Development Corporation as one of the "Top 50 Outstanding Asian-Americans in Business", and was also recognized as a Business Leader of Color by Chicago United in 2019.

He is a Partner in Nanjing Wande Group, and the Managing Partner of Playground Capital, its North American subsidiary. Wande is China's largest parks and playgrounds manufacturer with distribution to over 80 countries and equipment in over 300,000 playgrounds across China. Joe oversees the international operations, and budgets for its portfolio companies, and is

responsible for the evaluation of companies considered for investment, acquisition, or joint venture partnerships.

Leveraging his Chinese American background, global network, and cross-cultural expertise, he was able to orchestrate a partnership between two multibillion-dollar industry giants, the largest playground manufacturer in China, Nanjing Wande Group, with the largest in North America.

He co-founded SmartHealth Activator, which supported Rosalind Franklin University's plan to build a \$50 million, 100,000 square-foot Biotech Innovation Park. Lake County Partners estimates the first phase of the project will create 498 jobs and have an annual economic impact of \$117 million. He is also a co-founder of two investment groups - Red Frey Ventures and West Suburban Angels.

He was recently recognized by the NAAPPPA (National Association of Asian Pacific's in Politics and Public Affairs) for the 2020 List of the Top 40 Asian Pacific Americans Under 40 in Politics & Public Affairs. He serves as the National Co-Chair of Leaders Forum, a bi-partisan Asian American network of business executives and influential thought leaders launched in the White House in 2014. Is an Ambassador for the National Asian

American Chamber of Commerce (National ACE). And he is also one of fifteen business leaders selected from across the United States to serve on the Millennial Debt Commission in DC. In Chicago, he also serves on the board of the Chinese Mutual Aid Association, recently granted \$3 million dollars by the State of Illinois to build the first of its kind, Pan-Asian Center.

Joe in his personal life, is also a professional boxer, who competed in the 2008 Chinese Olympic Trials, and was a former World Amateur Thai Boxing Champion.



**Teddy Liaw**  
CEO  
NexRep

Teddy Liaw is the CEO of NexRep, a leader in work-at-home contact centers. With 6000+ US-based virtual agents on their platform, NexRep has the largest virtual contact center footprint in America, and they have been innovators in the work-at-home movement for over a decade. Teddy is a recognized pioneer and was appointed by California Governor Newsom on the CA Governor's Entrepreneur Task Force. Teddy has held roles at numerous companies, including Liveops, Levi Strauss and Company, Canon Computers, and Morgan Stanley. He founded Taiwanese American Professionals and Global Leadership Organization and serves on the Board of Leaders Forum. He doubled in Business Administration and Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, where he was student body President and founded the Berkeley Asian American Association.