

**2017
NATIONAL AAPI
BUSINESS SUMMIT**



Speaker Bios



Mr. Efrain Gonzalez

Associate Director

U.S. Department of Commerce

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

Efrain Gonzalez serves as Associate Director for Business Development at the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He oversees the Agency's business development operations and programs. The Office of Business Development is responsible for creating, developing and implementing innovative solutions to address the challenges faced by minority-owned businesses such as access to capital, access to contracts, access international markets and capacity building. He is one of MBDA's longstanding leaders and has served in numerous roles at MBDA throughout his 17-year career at the Department of Commerce.

Prior to Efrain's return to MBDA, he served as Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer at BusinessUSA, a federal government-wide initiative that uses technology to make it easier for small businesses to access federal services. The design for BusinessUSA was based on a Department of Commerce initiative called CommerceConnect, where Efrain served as Deputy Director. CommerceConnect was a customer service initiative that simplified access to business solutions through a single entry point to programs, information and services.

Efrain began his career in economic development at the University of Southern California's Business Expansion Network, where he served as Associate Director and managed the operations of a business development center. While at USC, Efrain worked with city governments, community development banks, business leaders and entrepreneurs to increase opportunities for businesses and foster job creation.

Throughout his career, Efrain has been a tireless advocate for minority businesses, entrepreneurship and helping U.S. firms compete in the global economy. He has a deep appreciation for the challenges faced by business owners because of his own experience running a small business in East Los Angeles. Efrain is a graduate from the University of Southern California.



Ms. Edith McCloud

Acting National Director,
U.S. Department of Commerce
Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

On January 21, 2017, Edith Jett McCloud was designated as Acting National Director of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA). In this capacity, Ms. McCloud directs the Department's minority business development initiatives and assists the Secretary of Commerce in implementing new strategies to better serve the minority business community.

Prior to this appointment, on September 27, 1999, Ms. McCloud became the first career Senior Executive Service manager to serve at MBDA in over 10 years. In her position as Associate Director for Management, Ms. McCloud serves as the principal advisor to the MBDA Director and Deputy Director on management policy and practices and as liaison and coordinator of the various administrative functions of the Agency. The programs and activities under her control have a major impact on the overall operations of the Agency and its mission of fostering the growth and development of the Nation's minority-owned businesses.

Ms. McCloud brings to her position an extensive background in management policy coordination, program planning and evaluation, management analysis and review, budget and fiscal management and information resources management. She is responsible for developing the requirements for MBDA and for compliance under the Government Performance and Results Act; the Chief Financial Officers Act; the Information Technology Management Reform Act; the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

Ms. McCloud directs the daily operations of three offices at MBDA, including (1) The Office of Administration and Financial Management, which performs activities relating to improving organization structure, productivity and all personnel matters and correspondence management; (2) The Office of Information Technology Services, which develops policies and directs the design, procurement and implementation of information technology-related resources and (3) The Office of Program Support, which conducts both contract procurement for goods, services and supplies, as well as programmatic awards through grants and cooperative agreements for MBDA's nationwide network of funded organizations.

Prior to her MBDA appointment, Ms. McCloud served for nearly two years as Executive Director, Howard University Small Business Development Center in Washington, D.C., and as Interim General Manager at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center, where, for over 15 years, she held several senior management positions.



Ms. Chiling Tong

President and Chief Executive Officer
National ACE

Chiling Tong has intensive 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 CEC 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 & Pacific Islander (AAPI) business interests and effect positive change on all issues that advance the goals and aspirations of AAPI business owners, entrepreneurs and corporate leaders. It also strives to improve the economic development of the AAPI community and fosters the next generation of AAPI entrepreneurs.

In 2000, Ms. Tong founded the International Leadership Foundation (ILF) to develop young leaders in public services, community engagement and international relations focused on America and the Pacific Rim countries. For the past decades, Ms. Tong has a demonstrated record of success in advocating for AAPI economic and policy interests in the nation's capital and maintains strong professional and personal relationships in government and in business. Tong 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 and was responsible for overseeing the treatment of American companies by Asia and Pacific countries. Tong has been a member of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs. In 2015, Tong was appointed by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to 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 was awarded a Coro Public Affairs Fellowship and the Chairperson of the Los Angeles County Community Action Board.



Mr. David B. Cohen
Attorney & Consultant
Law Office of David B. Cohen

David Cohen formerly served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior, as U.S. representative to the Pacific Community, and as a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. He is the co-author of two textbooks on business law, and has written widely read public policy pieces for such publications as *The Far Eastern Economic Review*, *Forbes*, and *The Daily Caller*. He currently practices law and serves as Chairman of the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging.



Ms. Margaret Wong
President and Chief Executive Director
McWong International, Inc.

Margaret Wong has been identified by the *Sacramento Bee* as the "Business Empress" based on her success in linking multi-million dollar businesses between California and China. For the past 20 years she has also served as Sacramento's "unofficial ambassador" to China in her quest to promote better business and cultural understanding between the U.S. and China.

A Hong Kong native, Margaret received her B.S. degree in Economics and Finance from the University of Hong Kong. She immigrated to the U.S. in 1974 where she served as the Corporate Controller for Bostrom Management Corporation in Chicago for 10 years. She worked as a Vice President of American Savings and Loans in Stockton before moving to Sacramento in 1984 to start her own business.

Margaret founded McWong International, Inc. in 1984 and since that time, she has used her extensive network in China and experience in doing business with China to create one of the west coast's most successful China trade companies in the electrical and lighting products industry. In 1997, Margaret founded McWong Environmental and Energy Group (MEEG), which specializes in the export of environmental and energy related technology and equipment for industrial wastewater treatment projects in China. Margaret also initiated "McWong Smart" concept in 2010, an effort focused on exporting smart lighting technology to China to promote "Eco City" green lighting systems. McWong currently has multiple offices and factories in China with its headquarters located in Sacramento, California.

In 2014, Margaret founded the "California Center" to expand business opportunities between California and China. Margaret has been widely recognized in the industry for her strong business and government connections in China and inside knowledge of the "ways and means" of doing business in China, which serves as a great benefit to the California Center's members.



Mr. Amar Shokeen

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
RJT Compuquest

Mr. Amar Shokeen founded RJT Compuquest, Inc., in 1996 and serves as its President and CEO. He has over 30 years of business leadership experience. He is a seasoned professional who gained valuable experience with several major corporations in India, before migrating to the United States.

RJT Compuquest (www.rjtcompuquest.com) has been recognized over multiple years as one of Los Angeles' fastest-growing companies, and also been noted as one of Los Angeles' largest minority-owned businesses by the Los Angeles Business Journal. Amar has also been recognized by Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, White House Business Council, Inc. 5000 as the Fastest Growing Companies. As a community-minded entrepreneur, Amar is an active member of America Indian Foundation, National Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship (ACE), The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE).

Amar's strengths as a leader come from his strong sense of entrepreneurship and value creation, which have provided the strategic vision to grow the company to where it is today. Amar is the founder and president of the Welcome Group Inc., a hospitality management company which owns seven hotels that includes a collection of hotels across the United States (www.welcomegroupinc.com). He is a founding member for a startup in India (www.efficientbazaar.com) that has just received seed funding from Microsoft and Reliance. Amar was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from St. John's College in India and continued his education by earning his MBDA from Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business in 2005. In 2010, Amar completed the Owner President Management (OPM) program at Harvard Business School. Amar is also an avid reader and world traveler, learning all that he can from the places he has been. Amar resides in Southern California with his wife Rita and their three children.



Paul Hsu, Ph.D.
Chairman
HSU Foundation

Dr. Paul Hsu is an engineer, entrepreneur, business leader and public servant. He recently authored *Guardians of the Dream: The Enduring Legacy of America's Immigrants*, a narrative of his personal journey which reflects his optimistic vision of the opportunities that exist in

America for those willing to work hard to achieve their dreams.

www.guardiansofthedream.com

Paul was born in Taiwan and came to the U.S. as a first generation immigrant in 1976. Manufacturing Technology Inc. (MTI), Paul's first company, was founded in 1984 serving the Department of Defense in avionics and battlefield electronics. Following MTI, Paul founded three more successful companies beginning with Total Parts Plus, Inc., an internet based data content company providing electronic component research services and data management applications; ActiGraph, LLC, an electronic medical device manufacturer which develops products that collect biometric data used to assess sleep levels/patterns, drug research, and cardiac rehabilitation; and Crestview Technology Air Park, a development providing infrastructure for aerospace and technology driven solutions in Northwest Florida.

Paul's knowledge and experience recommended him in Washington D.C., where he accepted and fulfilled presidential appointments within the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Government Contracting and Business Development and later to serve as part of the National Advisory Council on Minority Business Enterprise. Currently, Paul holds the position of Senior Research Fellow on Energy Efficiency in the Harvard University Asia Center.

Paul Hsu has also been active in public service at all levels. He has served on a number of local, national, and federal councils and boards including the U.S. President's Export Council and U.S. SBA's National Advisory Board. Paul and his companies have received numerous awards including U.S. SBA's Small Business Person of the Year and U.S. SBA's Hall of Fame.

Additionally, Paul has invested time and resources in community building. In 2006, he served as the National Chairman of the International Leadership Foundation, an organization that strives to bring young leaders to Washington, D.C. for summer internships. In 2002, he established the Dr. Paul and Majes-Maggie Hsu Endowed Engineering Scholarship that awards outstanding students in pursuit of a career in engineering. In 2014, Paul established the Paul Hsu Foundation Teaching Excellence Awards in Math and Science, committing to recognize STEM high school educators for the next 10 years.



Ms. Nanxi Liu

Chief Executive Officer and Founder
Enplug

Nanxi Liu is the CEO and founder of Enplug, a technology company. She was named Forbes 30 Under 30. Enplug is the leading open software used to manage and distribute content on digital displays in businesses. They are headquartered in Los Angeles and have offices in the UK, Brazil, and Japan. In college, Nanxi founded Nanoly Bioscience, which develops polymers that eliminate refrigeration for vaccines. The venture-backed company received the Top Research award at the World Biomaterials Congress. The company successfully operates today in Colorado.

Nanxi serves on the Board of Advisors for Covington Capital Management and for the entrepreneurship program at the Nazarian School of Business at California State University-Northridge. She was a Youth Advisory Board member for Lady Gaga's Foundation. As a concert pianist, Nanxi has performed live on NBC. She is an Emmy-nominated producer for the TV show, The Bay. Nanxi studied at UC Berkeley, where she was elected Vice President of the student body, created and taught a public policy course, and received the Haas School of Business Undergraduate Leadership Award. In her free time, she enjoys writing music, playing tennis, and racing cars.



Mr. Bill Imada

Chairman and Chief Connectivity Officer
IW Group, Inc.

Bill Imada is the chairman and chief connectivity officer of IW Group, Inc., a full-service marketing, communications and advertising agency focusing on the growing multicultural and millennial markets in the U.S. and Canada. For more than 25 years, Bill Imada has worked with some of the top global brands and companies, including American Airlines, General Motors, Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Southern California Edison, Toyota Motor Sales USA, Verizon, Walmart Stores, Walt Disney Imagineering, Warner Bros. and Wells Fargo.

Bill is active in the community and serves on more than a dozen boards and advisory councils. He serves on the board of directors for the Advertising Educational Foundation, Asian & Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE), Center for Asian American Media, Coalition for Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE), and PBS. He also serves on the public relations or marketing advisory councils for the University of Florida, University of Southern California, and Western Connecticut State University.



Mr. Frank Chen

President and Chief Executive Officer
Sinomax USA, Inc.

Mr. Feng (Frank) Chen is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Sinomax USA, Inc.

Frank started his career at Sinomax Group, the parent company of Sinomax USA, Inc. in 2000 as a Sales Manager. He assisted in setting up the Sinomax USA division and has been the President and CEO since the company's establishment in 2005. Frank was instrumental in establishing a relationship with Wal-Mart in 2006 and began supplying foam bedding products to Wal-Mart USA. He became the Vice President of Sinomax Group in 2007 and has served the Board of Directors for Sinomax Group as an Executive Director since 2012. Frank is passionate about the Sinomax commitment to technology and quality, and in 2010, led Sinomax to become the first Asian foam manufacturer to earn the CertiPUR-US certification for quality assurance in foam bedding. In 2012, Sinomax received a "Supplier Award of Excellence" from Wal-Mart in recognition of high quality products and customer service. However, Frank didn't stop there. He had a vision to make Sinomax USA more vertically integrated and showed his commitment to investing in the USA. In 2015, he made the decision to invest \$28 Million in a US factory that will create 350 jobs in Tennessee. Sinomax USA, Inc. is now a recognized leader in foam bedding manufacturing in the USA due to Frank's vision and strategy.

Originally from Beijing, Frank's passion for trade and technology carry on his family's lineage, with a father who was an International Diplomat for China, and a grandfather who was a renowned scholar in China. Frank graduated from the Capital University of Economics and Business in Beijing, China with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering Science. After moving from China in the 1989 with the support of an American professor, Frank earned his Master of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Frank currently resides in the Houston, Texas area with his wife and two children.



Ms. Cindi Marsiglio

Vice President, U.S. Manufacturing
Walmart Stores, Inc.

Ms. Cindi Marsiglio is Vice President of US Manufacturing. She is responsible for delivering Walmart's \$250b commitment towards additional US manufacturing over ten years. In that role she leads across the Walmart business to facilitate opportunities with current and new suppliers and accelerate making US made goods available to Walmart customers.

She is also responsible for leading Walmart's Supplier Diversity program, encouraging diverse companies to explore new opportunities with Walmart.

Prior to her current position she served as Senior Director of Public Affairs and Government Relations for where she was responsible for advocating on behalf of Walmart and favorably shaping public policy at the state and local level. In addition to engaging legislative and executive officials across the company's eastern region she was also responsible for supporting the new store expansion efforts and community engagement.

Cindi joined Walmart in 2007 after working for the Florida Chamber of Commerce and serving in Florida Governor Jeb Bush's administration as a Deputy Secretary at the Department of Management Services. As a member of the agency executive team, she was responsible for several divisions including legislative affairs, communications, budget management, state purchasing, facilities and real estate.

She has more than 20 years of government and retail experience and is a graduate of Florida State University.



Mr. Jimmy Ferguson

Owner/Operator, J-C's McD's Ltd.
Asian McDonald's Operators Association

Mr. Jimmy Ferguson and his wife, Cindi, have owned and operated 23 McDonald's restaurants in Austin, and other central Texas cities for the past 23 years. Prior to owning McDonald's franchises, Mr. Ferguson held the position of assistant vice president and dean of students at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR.

As a college administrator, Mr. Ferguson served the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) as the chairman of the board of directors and held an appointment by Gov. Bill Clinton to the Arkansas Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism.

During his Career with McDonald's, Mr. Ferguson has served as vice chair of the Asian McDonald's Operators Association (AMOA) and West Division President for AMOA. Mr. Ferguson has also served as the chair of McDonald's Asian Business Vision Team, president of Central Texas McDonald's Operator's Association, Chairman of McDonald's Houston Region Leadership Council, member of West Division Leadership Council, member of National Leadership Council, and chair of the McDonald's National Asian Consumer's Marketing Team.

Mr. Ferguson is currently serving as the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Asian/Pacific Island American Chamber for commerce and Entrepreneurship, member of Board of Director for Asian/Pacific Island American Scholarship Fund, and a member of the Advisory Board for the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce.

As the Chair of National ACE, Mr. Ferguson has met individually with the Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu, U.S. Small Business Administration Director Maria Contreras-Sweet, U.S. Commerce Department Minority Business Development Agency Director, Alejandra Castillo and US Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy to advocate for Small Business & Entrepreneurships. Mr. Ferguson has also been in meetings with the President and Vice President of the United States, and many of the U.S. Congressional Leaders.

Mr. Ferguson holds a B.A. in economics and a M.A. in college personnel service from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA.

Mr. Ferguson and Cindi have three children. One is a practicing attorney in Dallas and two are McDonald's owner/operators themselves in Austin.



Ms. Wendy Lewis

Global Chief Diversity Officer
VP Global Community Engagement
McDonald's Corporation

Wendy Lewis is responsible for guiding McDonald's Global "Diversity IS Inclusion" efforts across all McDonald's Corporation business functions. Her responsibilities include developing a platform that enriches the organization's history and culture of opportunity, growth and economic impact within diverse communities and strategic partnerships.

Prior to joining McDonald's, Wendy spent almost 30 years at Major League Baseball (MLB), where she developed and implemented numerous innovative and successful metric-driven strategies and initiatives throughout the League and the sports industry. She designed MLB's Diversity Economic Impact Engagement. The "DEIE" model was developed to advance MLB's workforce and supply chain engagement levels, league-wide.

She is also the creator of Major League Baseball's Diversity Business Summit. The Summit is an unprecedented diversity employment and procurement conference and trade fair that has transformed the workforce and supplier pipelines for Major League Baseball. "DBS" brought together job seekers, business owners, emerging entrepreneurs and community leaders to network with MLB's Commissioner, key executives and the heads of Human Resources and Procurement from all 30 Clubs, its Central Office, Advanced Media, the Network, and Minor League Baseball.

Under Wendy's leadership, participation of diverse businesses in MLB's Diverse Business Partners Program significantly increased. Since its formation, more than \$1 billion in goods and services has been spent with thousands of businesses.

She has been recognized as a pioneer and global leader and is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. She has been featured in a variety of publications and is a highly regarded key note speaker and subject matter expert.

Wendy holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh and an MBA from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.



Ms. Evelyn Kim

Chief Executive Officer & President
US Metro Group, Inc.

Evelyn's exposure to the Facility Maintenance Industry started from birth. Her Father Charles Kim founded US Metro Group, Inc., namely, one of the largest Minority-Owned Facility Service Corporations in the nation. Evelyn had the invaluable advantage of observing her father build his company from the ground up and she continues to follow his model.

In 2009, Evelyn joined U.S Metro Group as a member of the Corporate Administration Team. During this time she realized she wanted to become a permanent member of her father's business. Prior to this she worked as a Special Education teacher and worked at US Metro Group as a part time employee during breaks when the students were on vacation.

Mr. Kim was delighted in her decision and moved Evelyn quickly into a Quality Assurance and Business Development role. Here her duties included management of premier client relationships, conducting site inspections and working closely with the Sales & Marketing Department. In 2011, Evelyn turned her attention to the operations side of the business. By working closely with area managers and supervisors she learned the foundation and practices of how US Metro Group performs its services. Mr. Kim, seeing an opportunity to devote more time to marketing, promoted Evelyn to Vice President in 2012. In 2016, her father decided to take a lesser role in the company and confidently promoted Evelyn to CEO/President. She continues to take great pride in keeping her Father's Legacy alive.

Today, some of Evelyn's accomplishments include: USPAACC's Fastest Growing Asian American Business; PNC's Preferred Supplier of the Year, as well as being featured as a major supplier for the US Department of Commerce/Minority Business Development Agency.



Ms. Natalie N. Robinson

Vice President, Strategic Sourcing and Supplier Diversity
CBS Corporation

Ms. Natalie N. Robinson is the Vice President of Strategic Sourcing and Supplier Diversity for CBS Corporation, America's most watched television network. Her responsibilities include providing access, growth and development opportunities for qualified, diverse suppliers who meet specific CBS procurement requirements. Natalie leads efforts in implementing preferred vendor programs and encouraging all CBS business units to utilize established discounted rates and promotions. Other responsibilities include assisting the CBS Strategic Sourcing Department in key enterprise-wide projects that support the Department's annual goals, contributing to enterprise commitment to diversity and sustainability through consideration of these key areas during supplier selection and negotiation, as well as in ongoing supplier relationships, refining and monitoring CBS Second Tier program, and coordinating supplier diversity outreach events in both New York and Los Angeles.

Prior to joining CBS in 2011, Natalie began her professional career working for IBM Business Consulting Services and Sirius XM Satellite Radio. Her function has always been in the space of supply management and strategic sourcing. At CBS, she was able to expand her role to sourcing opportunities specifically for diverse suppliers. Since the launch of this program, CBS has seen significant growth in spending with diverse-owned businesses across the organization. In recent years, hundreds of qualified diverse suppliers have participated in CBS Supplier Diversity Outreach events. The connections made at these events have contributed to millions of dollars in CBS contracts being awarded to diverse-owned suppliers. Natalie has over 10 years of supplier diversity and strategic sourcing experience.

Natalie holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Transportation and Logistics. In 2007, she obtained her Masters of Science degree in Project Management from The George Washington University. She serves as an active member of the CBS Corporate Diversity Council and Scholarship sub-committee. Robinson is also a member of the Institute of Supply Management, National Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Presidents Education Organization, an affiliate of Women Business Enterprise National Council and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Ms. Wendy Shu

Co-owner and Director of Business & Legal Affairs
SAGE Millimeter

Ms. Wendy Shu is Co-owner and Director of Business & Legal Affairs at SAGE Millimeter, Inc., an engineering firm that designs and manufactures extremely high frequency (EHF) products for commercial and military system applications. In this capacity, Wendy oversees activities related to business strategy, supply chain, quality and customer experience, recruitment, intellectual property, and regulatory compliance. For the past five years, Wendy has helped SAGE nearly double its revenue year after year by implementing tools and methods pulled from diverse industries.

Wendy is passionate about the unique role of Asian-American entrepreneurs in the global economy and has seen that technology can be a powerful equalizer for minority-owned businesses. She believes in the importance of advocacy because commitment from public and commercial partners allows small businesses to create more jobs, scale their infrastructure, and drive more innovation.

Wendy earned her B.A in International Relations and East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Southern California and her J.D. from the USC Gould School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of California.



Mr. Andrew Kim

Senior Analyst – Public Policy & Government Relations
Google

Mr. Andrew Kim is a Senior Analyst on Google's Public Policy & Government Relations team and manages Google's engagements with the U.S. Executive Branch. Andrew plays a leading role in shaping Google's policy agenda in security, artificial intelligence, digital trade, and transportation and infrastructure, among a wide range of other internet and technology policy issues. Previously, Andrew was a Policy Advisor on Google's Trust & Safety team and developed product policies for Google's Search, Android, Chrome, and early-stage virtual reality and IoT products.

Andrew started his career at the Pentagon as a Country Director for China and South Korea in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He continued his government service at the State Department, managing North Korea political-military issues in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific affairs and then moving to Embassy Rangoon to serve as the Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Burma.

Andrew has lived and traveled extensively across Asia and is fluent in Mandarin and Korean. He received his MPA and AB summa cum laude from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He is originally from New York and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife.



Mr. Romance Watson

Director of Diversity Enterprise Business
SHI International Corp.

Mr. Romance Watson began his career at SHI International as a Strategic Account Executive in July 1994 supporting many major corporate clients in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 2009, he transitioned away from sales to become Manager of Diversity Business Development to enhance SHI's growing presence with the global supplier diversity community and corporations that value supplier diversity across the U.S. and abroad. As of January 2016, Romance became the Director of Diversity Enterprise Business. This role enables him to travel to attend customer meetings, corporate diversity summits, diversity vendor events associated with the NMSDC and WBENC. Romance created a network of MBE-to-MBE relationships. This resulted in the creation of the MBE Partner Network program. He and his team manages and provides over 160 Quarterly Diversity Spend Reports for our clients. Romance also established and continues to maintain SHI's internal MBE minority business development and mentoring program. We sponsor to support and participate in several NMSDC and WBENC regional/local council business opportunity fairs and proud to continue SHI's tradition of being the nation's premiere MWBE where we demonstrate excellence in leadership, management, customer and employee satisfaction through our expanded service offerings globally.



Mr. Mohit Manchanda

Director, Sourcing and Procurement
Americas and Global Technology
Interpublic Group

Mr. Mohit Manchanda manages the Americas region at Interpublic Group's (IPG) global sourcing & procurement group in addition to supporting IPG's global technology sourcing needs. He brings a wealth of experience as a business leader –having managed a technology startup and having held leadership positions at an IT service provider prior to joining IPG in 2013. He started his career in technology sales, followed by a stint in consumer banking. These early experiences helped him realize the importance of building relationships and delivering value to his stakeholders, principles he lives by.

Mohit is passionate about the environment and believes that every small act is important in helping protect the earth – from composting waste at home, utilizing rainwater in the backyard and using public transport and bicycling to work. He is an avid squash player and an active volunteer in a program called streetsquash (<http://streetsquash.org/newark/>) - a comprehensive after-school youth enrichment program that combines intensive academic support with squash instruction.



Mr. George Mui

Senior Development Specialist
Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)

George Mui is a Senior Business Development Specialist in the Office of Business Development for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce. As a global strategist, he provides business consulting services for minority businesses in the area of international business development and strategy with a keen focus on domestic and international partnerships that provide access to global markets. In 2014 and 2015, George served as the Senior Advisor to WHIAAPI in a special assignment as the Business Liaison for the AAPI Business Community. In his role, he initiated multiple innovative national programs designed to advocating for AAPI businesses: Doing Business in Asia by leveraging success Asian American business as the lead for American exports and business expansion in Asia, AAPI Construction Advocacy programs that is designed to increase AAPI participation in government contracting; the New American Business Boot Camp providing new AAPI immigrants access to federal, state, and local government resources.

George is also active outside of his main job assignment. He is currently serves on the Federal level AAPI Regional Network, the Advisory Committee for the Office of New Americans for the City of Chicago, Alumni Board for the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Advisory Board for the SAUPO program at the Kennesaw State University.

George is a community advocate with a special focus on Asian American business advocacy. He just completed two successful years as the OCA-Chicago chapter president. Under his leadership, he initiated the OCA-Scholarship fund, OCA-Chicago Mentoring for Asian American Professionals, and the Asian American Business Expo. He is also the founder of the Asian American Executive Network – a nationwide advocacy group for Asian American professionals and entrepreneurs with 200 + members.

George has a Master and a Bachelor degree in Computer Sciences from The Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL. He also completed two Executive Education programs at Stanford University. He is married to Susan Mui with two children Stephen and Kevin Mui.



Mr. Mark Keam

Board Advisor
National ACE

Since National ACE was first launched in 2012, Mark Keam has held various leadership roles, including serving as the organization's lead policy advocate in Washington, D.C.

Currently, Mark is an independent consultant, providing strategic advice to private and public sector clients, based on his three decades of professional experiences in America and in the Asia Pacific region. Upon graduating college, Mark became an entrepreneur who managed three small start-up businesses in international trade, retail marketing, and design-build construction sectors. He has also held executive positions with a Fortune 15 technology company.

In addition to his private sector experiences, Mark has been a legal professional in both executive and legislative branches of federal, state and local governments, including several years as Chief Counsel to the United States Senate Minority Leader. Mark is also a part-time state legislator, representing Fairfax County in the Virginia House of Delegates. In 2009, Mark became the first Asian-born immigrant elected to any state-level public office in Virginia. His accomplishments as an elected official have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia, Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Education Association, League of Conservation Voters, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, The Washington Post, Fairfax County Times, and Sun Gazette. Mark holds degrees from the University of California at Irvine and Hastings College of the Law.



Ms. Mariko Carpenter

Vice President, Strategic Community Alliances
Nielsen

Mariko S. Carpenter is the Vice President, Strategic Community Alliances at Nielsen, a leading authority on consumer data. In this role, Mariko serves as a thought leader on Asian American consumers, sharing invaluable insights to help brands, marketers and community leaders understand the impact and influence of Asian Americans in this country. Mariko brings to light the narrative hidden within the massive volume of data available in our increasingly multicultural, ever-changing digital world.

Prior to joining Nielsen, Mariko was the Consumer Marketing lead at Condé Nast, responsible for driving consumer revenue for three iconic brands: GQ, Bon Appétit and Golf Digest. She holds a BA in Asian Studies and French from Vassar College and MS in Marketing from New York University.

Mr. Rudy Pamintuan

Managing Director



Sherman Consulting

Rudy Pamintuan is the Managing Director for Sherman Worldwide, an international affairs firm based in the United States. Pamintuan previously served as an appointee of President George W. Bush, advising the President in the areas of economic and community development for underserved communities.

In his capacity with Sherman Worldwide, Pamintuan advises and consults his clients, which include government entities, Fortune 1000 companies and high profile individuals on a wide range of issues. He serves as the Chairman for the US Asia Center and as a board member for Working In The Schools.

As a member of the Batonga Foundation Advisory Board, Pamintuan believes that the creation of higher education opportunities for young women in Africa is a key initiative to offer solutions to the challenges in Africa.



Mr. Ian So
Chief Executive Officer
Chicken & Rice Guys

From 2012 to 2016, Ian has led Chicken & Rice Guys to be the 206th fastest growing private company in America (officially recognized by Inc 5000) and the 10th fastest in Massachusetts. He is not stopping there. Ian's goal is to be the first global food truck brand. And, with a 4 year growth rate of over 3,000%, his business is quickly on track for that global expansion. What started as one food truck the team bought on eBay, is now 5 trucks with permanent locations, 7 restaurants, and a multi-million-dollar catering business.

Chicken & Rice Guys has also won numerous awards and publications in the media including Boston Business Journal's Diversity in Leadership Award for Corporate Impact, Boston Eater's Hottest Restaurants of 2015, Thrillist's Best Food Trucks in Boston, Reader's Digest Nationally Top Ranked Food Truck, Boston A-List's Best Food Truck of 2013, 2014 and 2016, and has enjoyed top rankings Yelp.com.

Some of Ian's greatest accomplishments are winning Boston Business Journal's 2016 40 Under 40, winning Mayor Walsh's 2016 Spark Impact Awards, and Smart CEO's Future 50 2017 award.

Ian is frequently featured on the speaking circuit for his entrepreneurship. Notable appearances include sitting on a panel with Bizarre Food's Andrew Zimmern & Top Chef's Gail Simmons at Babson College's Food Day, and a guest on NBC's Asia Focus with Mary Sit. His most interesting speaking engagement was doing a reading with Pulitzer Prize winner Cerise Jacobs.

In his spare time, Ian is very active in the Asian community serving as a board member/leader for the Boston Asian Entrepreneurship Foundation, the Asian American Civic Association, and the Boston Hurricanes Athletic Club. He also recently joined the City of Boston's Food Truck Advisory Committee. To balance out all his hard work, Ian spends his free time doing yoga, meditating, hiking, biking, and his favorite past time, playing basketball.



Mr. Andrew Chau

Co-Founder
Boba Guys

Andrew Chau (San Francisco, CA) is co-founder of Boba Guys and Tea People USA. He has been featured as a top emerging business leader on CNN, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Vogue, and NPR. Prior to a career in Consumer Product Goods and corporate marketing, Andrew started and exited his first startup in 2011. Andrew is also a freelance writer and small business adviser with a column on Huffington Post. He has his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UC Berkeley. He and his wife Kelly live in San Francisco.



Ms. Lavanya Jawaharlal

President and Co-Founder
STEM Center, USA

Lavanya Jawaharlal (Los Angeles, CA) is the President and Co-Founder of STEM Center USA, a K-12 hands-on robotics education company that inspires the next generation of STEM leaders. She is a recent Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of California – Berkeley, where she also served as the Executive Vice President of the student body. Lavanya is the co-author of *The Technical Alphabet* and helped develop the Pi-Bot robot kit. She and her sister were recognized for their work in STEM education by former Vice President Joe Biden and featured on ABC's "Shark Tank." In her spare time, Lavanya enjoys running, playing soccer, and scuba diving.



Mr. Jaz Limos

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Saints of Steel

San Francisco native, Jaz Limos, spent her career at Apple teaching leaders in business from around the world how to strategically grow their performance and build successful B2B teams. Jaz achieved consistent top tier performance and piloted innovation programs that led to the growth of Silicon Valley's most exciting startups and technology companies.

Seeing the rise of homelessness and lack of resources for underserved communities in the Bay Area, she decided to flip her life upside down and dedicate her career towards building ecosystems that offered innovative solutions for people in need.

Jaz took her background in strategic growth in B2B to founding Saints of Steel. A nonprofit that helps people become the best versions of themselves through the human connection of a haircut. A free haircut brings the dignity of self-care to those without the access, helping them rediscover who they are with a new look.

Saints of Steel curates environments customized to support communities in need, organizing partnerships that take the haircut to the next level. Their partners offer a range of services like career preparation, mobile showers, wellness programs and opportunities for those experiencing homelessness to reconnect with their families.

Through this movement Jaz aspires to influence fellow entrepreneurs and leaders in business to use their talents to impact future generations.



Mr. Youngro Lee

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
NextSeed

Youngro Lee is the co-founder/CEO of NextSeed, a FinTech startup that operates community-driven lending platforms for small businesses utilizing latest crowdfunding laws. On NextSeed, small businesses can fundraise online while showcasing their businesses and anybody can easily invest in local businesses.

NextSeed was the first SEC-registered Funding Portal pursuant to the JOBS Act Title III, and in July 2016 closed the first ever Regulation Crowdfunding offering in US history. NextSeed first launched a TX-specific crowdfunding portal in April 2015, also closing the first ever Texas investment crowdfunding offering. Since launching publicly in 2015, NextSeed has facilitated over \$3.5 million in business loans from thousands of individual investors. NextSeed is recognized as a leader in the US investment crowdfunding industry and has been frequently covered in national and regional media including Bloomberg TV, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Entrepreneur, Crowdfund Insider, Texas CEO Magazine, Houston Chronicle and Houston Business Journal.

Prior to launching NextSeed, Youngro was a private equity lawyer for 8 years at Cleary Gottlieb, Kirkland Ellis and Weil Gotshal, specializing in private fund formation and investments. During his international legal career based in New York, Moscow, Shanghai and Hong Kong, Youngro represented top-tier global and regional private equity firms and financial institutions raise multi-billion dollar investment funds to pursue various strategies across the world.

As the existing legal mechanisms of private fundraising dovetailed with the recent legal and regulatory developments in US investment crowdfunding, Youngro's expertise and interest in the global private equity industry and alternative assets was instrumental in sparking the ideas that evolved into NextSeed. Youngro received his JD and LLM in International and Comparative Law from Cornell Law School and undergraduate degrees from Cornell University and Simon's Rock College.



Le Zhang

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer

Le Zhang is co-founder and CEO of Squadle. Squadle helps improve food safety and operations for the \$4.5T multi-unit restaurant industry by digitizing paper logs and automating manual tasks with IoT sensors. The company is venture backed

by Bolt, 500 Startups, and Accomplice and has been covered in publications such as Techcrunch ("Our favorite startups.."), Built in Boston ("50 Boston startups to watch.."), Boston Business Journal, and Yahoo Finance.

Le has been applying cutting-edge technology to make easy-to-use hardware and software for more than 15 years. Previous to Squadle, Le was the founding manager of Rapid Labs, a full-stack consulting and software development business in Boston that created applications for Fortune 500 companies and startups in Boston.

Le is a Firebase pioneer and very early adopter of Node.js. He served as Firebase's brand ambassador in Boston until it was acquired by Google. Earlier, Le held technical and marketing roles at IBM and Analog Devices. He received a B.A. in Computer Science from Boston College. In his free time, he holds office hours with fellow entrepreneurs to give back to the community.