



## **A Special AAPI Heritage Month Greeting by Secretary Elaine L. Chao**

*A Conversation on AAPIs in Leadership*

Monday, May 11, 2020, 3 PM ET

*Secretary Elaine L. Chao will kick off this series of webinars with WHIAAPI and offer keynote remarks as well as a question and answer period with the audience. We will then turn it over to a panel discussion with AAPI leaders and organizations to discuss about AAPI leadership in the private and public sectors.*

### **AGENDA**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

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

#### **Introduction of Secretary Chao**

The Honorable Michelle Steel, Orange County Board of Supervisors

#### **Keynote Remarks**

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

*Followed by Q&A*

#### **Panel: A Conversation on AAPIs in Leadership**

- Moderator: Chiling Tong, President/CEO, National ACE
- Bill Imada, Chairman, IW Group, Inc.
- Anna Mok, Partner, Deloitte & Touche, LLP
- Raj Shah, Senior VP, Fox Corporation

## 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.



**The Honorable Michelle Steel**  
Supervisor, Second District  
Orange County, California

Elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 2014 with more than 62 percent of the vote, Michelle Steel represents the residents of the Second District, which includes, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Huntington Beach, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Newport Beach, Seal Beach, Stanton, the unincorporated area of Rossmoor, and portions of Buena Park and Fountain Valley.

Steel, a successful businesswoman and renowned taxpayer advocate, previously served as Vice Chair of the State Board of Equalization where she represented more than eight million people in Southern California, including all of Orange County, as one of the state's 12 constitutional officers. At the time, Steel was the highest-ranking Korean-American elected official in the United States. In 2017 she was unanimously voted to serve as Chairwoman for the Orange County Board of Supervisors. In 2018 she was re-elected to serve as the Second District Representative to the Orange County Board of Supervisors with more than 63 percent of the vote, and in 2019 she was elected by her colleagues to serve her second term as Chairwoman of the Board.



**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.



**Bill Imada**  
Chairman and Chief Connectivity Officer  
IW Group, Inc.

Bill Imada is Chairman and Chief Connectivity Officer of IW Group, a fully integrated marketing communications agency specializing in the multicultural markets. For more than three decades, Bill and his team have served some of the top global firms and governmental agencies, including the CDC, Gilead, Lexus, McDonald's, Netflix, Northwestern Mutual, Walmart, Walt Disney, Warner Bros, Wells Fargo, and many others. Bill's areas of expertise include marketing, public relations, advertising, trans-cultural communications, and crisis management.

Bill is a co-founding member of several national and regional organizations, including the APIA Scholars (formerly Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund), Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (National ACE), ACE NextGen, and the National Millennial and Gen Z Community, an organization that promotes civil discourse and civic engagement. Bill also serves on the boards of the Advertising Educational Foundation, Center for Asian American Media, Coalition for Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, LAGRANT Foundation, National ACE, and the PBS Foundation.



**Anna W. Mok**  
Partner  
Deloitte & Touche LLP

Anna Mok is the Asia Pacific Leader for the Advisory Practice and a Global Lead Client Services Partner. She has served in various leadership roles including National Managing Partner, Clients & Client Excellence responsible for developing and executing the client portfolio growth strategy; National Regions Leader overseeing markets; Strategic Risk Services Leader for financial services; and the Chief Inclusion Officer for Clients, Markets & Industries. During her distinguished career at Deloitte, she has also led and served some of its largest and most prestigious clients headquartered across the globe. Her industry experience includes high technology, healthcare, life sciences, fintech and consumer-oriented companies. She is a broad-based business leader with experience in business strategy & transformations, M&A, market expansion services, corporate governance & risk, finance and technology.

Anna was the first Chinese American woman admitted to partnership at Deloitte, selected as a member of Deloitte's Board Council and the CEO Advisory Partner Council. An active community leader, she has a deep passion and commitment to enabling economic and educational access and to the development and advancement of emerging leaders, women and minorities into senior executive and corporate board director roles. She is the National President & Co-Founder of Ascend (Pan-Asian Leaders) and the co-founder of Ascend Pinnacle (Pan-Asian Corporate Board Initiative). Her current community board leadership also includes the Commonwealth Club of California (the nation's largest and oldest public affairs forum for which she is a past chairman), the immediate past chairman of United Way Bay Area and the Nominating & Governance Chair of the Committee of 100.

Anna also serves as an Advisory Council member of the Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund, the Asian Pacific Fund and AAMA. She frequently speaks and is quoted in leading publications, media websites on business, leadership, governance and diversity matters. Anna has been bestowed numerous recognitions, including the San Francisco Business Times, Most Influential Women & Forever Influential Awards, Jefferson Foundation Award for Public Services, the AICPA Minority Leader Award, and Upwardly Global Leadership Award. She is also a past recipient of Deloitte's Community Involvement Leadership Partner Award. A graduate from the University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business and a Certified Public Accountant in the State of California, Anna has also lived and worked in Asia and currently resides with her family in Silicon Valley.



**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.