



Kathy Nakagawa, Ph.D., Board President
Lloyd Y. Asato, Executive Director

31 October 2015

Dear Summit Attendees,

On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to welcome you to the Summit on Women and Families presented by the White House Initiative on Asian Americana and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI), WHIAAPI Southwest Regional Network, and Asian Pacific Community in Action. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are the fastest growing communities in Arizona. AAPI communities have doubled in the last ten years as has the need for community-based services. AAPI women experience risks because of language and cultural barriers, a lack of safe places and resources, and a structural inability to access legal or programmatic remedies and culturally competent services.

The purpose of this summit is to deepen our collective understanding of the issues and challenges faced by AAPI women and families in Arizona; identify resources and programs available to address these issues; and provide an opportunity for community leaders along with federal, state, and local partner agencies to develop innovative approaches to addressing the needs of AAPI communities in Arizona. The summit builds upon our Strong Women Healthy Family forums where community members came together in a shared learning environment for networking and collaboration. These forums were made possible with the generous support of the Arizona Asian Pacific American Women Giving Circle. We learned from each other that healthy families enabled communities to flourish and how to better support AAPI women and families.

We offer our deep appreciation to the Strong Women Healthy Family forum participants and to the many volunteers who have helped to make this summit possible. Special appreciations go to Paul K. Chang and Diana Chen (WHIAAPI), U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Arizona Asian Pacific American Women Giving Circle, Kathryn Nakagawa and Angelica Penaran (Arizona State University), the Japanese American Citizen's League Arizona Chapter, and our speakers and panelists.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lloyd Y. Asato", written over a horizontal line.

Lloyd Y. Asato
Executive Director
Asian Pacific Community in Action