

**2024 Lunar New Year**

**Honorees**

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Mary Ann Wong, MA Research Specialist, Institute for Social Research

Margaret Hwang Ed.D., Chief of Operations, Office of the Vice President/CFO

Amy Liu, Ph. D., Chair and Professor, Department of Sociology

Pawan Wallace, Senior Associate Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships

Marya C. Endriga, Ph.D. Associate Dean of Student and Personnel Success

Voun Sa, Director, Internship & Career Services

HyunGyung Joo, Ph.D., Associate Professor in Counselor Education

Nikki B. Khamsouksay, Director of Presidential Business Operations, Office of the President

Mary Yin Liu, APAPA National CEO and Golden Arch Enterprises Owner/Operator

Isa Kelawili Jacala Whalen, Senate Consultant, California Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus

Kimberly Inuman Liaz, Cash for College Coordinator, CA Student Aid Commission

Rejie Baloyos, MA, Executive Director, Asian Resources, Inc.

Jessica Vernone, Director, Multimedia & Digital Communications, University Communications

Anh Phoong, Phoong Law Corp

Stephanie Tom, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer

Jennifer-Christine Madamba, Regional Workforce Development, Sustainable Communities, SMUD

Khydeeja Alam, Executive Director, California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs

My Sayamnath, Senior Associate Director, Academic Advising

Jinky Dolar, President, OCA-Asian Pacific Advocates

*Honoring individuals who support and demonstrate active commitment to Asian Pacific Islander Desi students' and serve as an exemplary advocate for their academic excellence and career success.*

## Speaker Event

### **A Lived Journey: Connecting Mental Health, Career and Culture in the AANHPI Community**

A conversation with Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom and moderated by Stephanie Tom, Deputy Treasurer, Office of the State Treasurer.

Sacramento State  
Thursday, Feb 8, 2024  
12:00-1:30 pm

Ben Chida serves as the Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary in the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom. As the highest Asian American staffer in the Newsom administration, Ben will share his life journey managing the cultural expectations and social pressures which drove him to attend to his mental health. Throughout his experiences he continues to learn how mental health is a key pillar to personal and professional success. In sharing his testimony, this event serves as an equity platform to bring voices to the diverse and continually growing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) community who wish to be seen, feel belonged, and live authentically.