

Northwestern



leadership summit

november 12, 2016

midwest asian american student union

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER

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Introduction

Dear Conference Selection Committee,

The Northwestern Fall Leadership Summit (LS) Planning Committee would like to thank the Midwest Asian American Student Union (MAASU) for this opportunity to host the 2016 retreat. There are many reasons why our school represents fertile ground for organizing Asian Americans students in the Midwest, as you will read on page 4, but what we would like to emphasize here is the incredible potential LS has in shaping Northwestern's own student body.

In 1995, seventeen Northwestern students held a hunger strike that lasted more than three weeks. They put their bodies on the line to demonstrate to the University a resolute commitment to the reclamation of their histories. Their demands for an Asian American Studies program did not pass until four years later, and an Asian American Studies major did not become a reality until less than two months ago. We have since made slow but steady progress with fostering the consciousness of students into activist who will continue the work of the hunger strikers more than twenty years ago. Their legacies will inspire future generations of students to hold on tightly to their moral convictions and pursue a life that refuses to be complicit in the oppression of themselves or others. Hosting LS will be our chance to carry forward this momentum.

Like our predecessors, we know that behind every major demonstration or event, there is a team of hardworking, dedicated individuals who do not stop when the spotlight turns off. We have embodied those qualities throughout our individual careers as students, and we will harness that passion to deliver a product that will make an impact on the lives of those who attend this conference. We will ensure that LS will provide a platform for the diverse Asian American community to make their experiences heard and develop a workshop selection that will be inclusive of that diversity.

Thank you for your considerations and your service to the community. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

**Midwest Asian American Student Union Fall Leadership Summit Planning Committee
Northwestern University**

Northwestern

Why Northwestern?

Located in quaint Evanston just 30 minutes north of the midwest epicenter known as Chicago, Northwestern University is a distinguished institution known for its specialized undergraduate schools, cutting edge research, and culturally and intellectually stimulating community. With 17% of the students identifying as Asian American, Northwestern is home to a diverse and growing Asian American presence. In the classrooms, in student organizations, and beyond, Asian American students have countless opportunities to explore and appreciate the diversity of cultural, ethnic, and racial identities that exist on campus and also learn about their own respective histories.

The Asian American Studies Program (AASP), founded in 1999 as a result of student activism stemming from the famous 1995 Hunger Strike, recently received institutional funding. Now, students may think critically about the role of Asian Americans in modern society through politics, history, and art as their primary academic discipline. AASP is also home to renowned scholars in the fields of critical race studies, Asian American history, ethnic studies, and more.

Outside of the classroom, Northwestern boasts over 30 Asian/Asian American-interest student groups that host large-scale events to highlight Asian American culture and raise awareness of issues that affect our community. In past years, Northwestern has consistently sent leaders from these student groups and from the larger Asian American student body to MAASU conferences. Furthermore several student groups have worked diligently to maintain to raise awareness of Asian American issues on the local and national scale. Last year, 26 students represented Northwestern at the MAASU Spring Conference in Madison, WI—more than double from the previous year. This year, students were able to organize a group of 40 people to attend the conference in Twin Cities, MN.

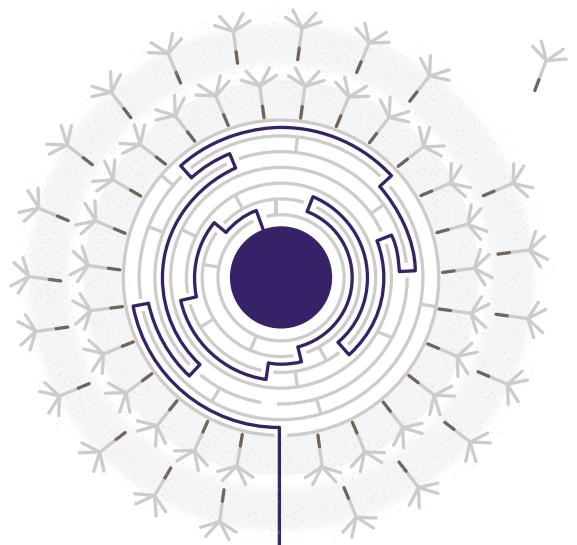
As a home to a diversity of Asian American student experiences, plentiful resources to navigate the exploration of these identities, and growing student engagement in Asian American issues, Northwestern is an ideal site to host the MAASU fall leadership conference.

Proposed Theme

This year's proposed theme is "Journey to the Center." Asian Americans continue to exist on the margins of visibility in almost every component of society—from politics, activism, sports, media, and more.

While exploring different themes, we determined that the concept must resonate with people who come to LS with different levels of knowledge—whether they are new or well-versed in Asian American issues. Furthermore, we understand that not everyone wants to make activism their sole career. With that, we wanted our theme to encourage all conference attendees to think critically about their place in society and, ultimately, figure out ways to center their own narratives within conversations about social justice.

Our identities are constantly called into question, and we must be ready to think critically about those questions when the moment arises. That is why it is not enough to simply remain on the outskirts when racial tensions flare. We must inform and educate others about our personal struggles and shared histories; we are our own strongest advocates. And to do that, we must journey to the center.



Executive Planning Committee

Chair (1)

Oversee and provides support for the planning committee and runs bi-weekly meetings; act as a liaison to the Executive Planning Committee

Banquet & Entertainment Chair (1)

Manage the banquet programming; secure the banquet venue and plan the decorations

Finance Chair (1)

Plan and obtain a feasible budget for the conference; fundraise with local businesses and campus organizations; set up registration with university financial services

Workshop & Speaker Chair (2)

Contact workshop facilitators and keynote speakers; negotiate fees and travel plans with out-of-town speakers; work with Logistics Chair to accommodate facilitators and speakers

Logistics Chair (2)

Maintain communication with university event management; create conference schedule for registrants and workshop facilitators

Volunteer Organizer (2)

Recruit and train small group leaders; determine theme for small group names; find people to help with overall setup and cleanup

Public Relations (1)

Design conference-related marketing material (logos, flyers, conference booklet, and videos); manage Facebook and website updates; assist Chair with answering questions during registration

Webmaster (1)

Design and maintain the conference website; create and manage online registration; assist with online publicity material

Students Organization

Asian Pacific American Coalition

APAC is a Pan-Asian student group that strives to raise Asian/Asian American awareness and community building on campus through discussions and various events. Formed in 199, it has continued to represent and serve as an advocate for the Asian/Asian American community.

Chinese Students Association

CSA is one of the first established Asian-American student groups at Northwestern. It aims to promote the awareness of Chinese culture on campus while encouraging a social environment for students of all backgrounds. Each year, CSA hosts three major events that strive to share Chinese culture and bring together the Asian community.

Chinese International Students Association

Formed in 2009, CISA is a cultural club that welcomes international Chinese students and all friends who are interested in Chinese. It aims to promote the authentic Chinese culture on campus, while providing a sense of belonging for the international Chinese students, helping them in transition to college life in the U.S.

Korean American Students Association

KASA at Northwestern is an organization formed to provide socially and culturally informative activities to all those who share an interest in Korean culture and Korean American issues. KASA also strives to promote awareness of Korean American students' interests as well as intercultural understanding and cooperation.

Taiwanese American Students Club

TASC was founded to provide a forum in which Taiwanese history, culture, and current events could be openly celebrated and shared among all Asian Americans and the Northwestern community at large. Their mission is to build a community amongst students interested in Taiwan, as well as to provide the larger community the chance to learn about Taiwanese culture.

Kappa Phi Lambda

The Nu Chapter at Northwestern University was founded in 2002. The founders had a vision to bring the first Asian American female organization on campus that would contribute service to the community and provide an outlet for cultural education.

Sigma Psi Zeta

The Alpha Beta chapter of SYZ is the newest Asian-interest sorority on campus. They are dedicated to providing an invaluable experience for their sisters and enriching Northwestern and its surrounding community through volunteer work and innovative programming.

Facilities



Norris University Center

14 meeting rooms.

Can accommodate small organizational meetings, formal banquets and special events.

All rooms in the Norris University Center are equipped with ceiling-mounted projectors and screens.



University Hall

11 classrooms with capacities ranging from 20-65.



Parkes Hall

7 classrooms with capacities ranging from 20-35.

Parking

On-campus parking is free after 4 p.m. on Fridays. Northwestern will be able to accommodate attendees who choose to drive to the conference. Parking lots are within short walking distance of the buildings that will hold the workshops.



- 1** 207 Fisk Lot
- 2** 208 Lacy Lot
- 3** 211 South Campus Parking Garage
- 4** 214 South Beach Structure—Upper
- 5** 215 South Beach Structure—Lower

Northwestern

Hotels

Hilton Orrington

1710 Orrington Ave, Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 866-8700
5 minutes walking • \$120 per night

The Homestead

1625 Hinman Ave, Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 475-3300
5 minutes walking • \$130 per night

Hilton Garden Inn Evanston

1818 Maple Ave, Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 475-6400
5 minutes walking • \$150 per night

Best Western University Plaza

1501 Sherman Ave, Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 491-6400
10 minutes walking • \$70 per night

Rodeway Inn

9333 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, IL 60077, (847) 679-4200
10 minutes driving • \$70 per night

Margarita European Inn

1566 Oak Ave, Evanston, IL 60201, (847) 869-2273
15 minutes walking • \$150 per night

Super 8 Morton Grove/Chicago

9110 Waukegan Rd, Morton Grove, IL 60053, (847) 966-0960
15 minutes driving • \$60 per night

Best Western Morton Grove Inn

9424 Waukegan Rd, Morton Grove, IL 60053, (847) 965-6400
15 minutes driving • \$80 per night

Local Restaurants

Ethnic Cuisine

- 527 Cafe - Taiwanese (527 Davis St)
- Joy Yee's - Pan-Asian (521 Davis St)
- Soulwich - Asian fusion (1634 Orrington Ave)
- Olive Mediterranean Grill - Mediterranean (1726 Sherman Ave)
- Koco Table - Korean (720 1/2 Clark St)
- Mt. Everest - Indian & Nepalese (630 Church St)
- Todoroki - Japanese (526 Davis St)
- Naf Naf Grill - Middle Eastern (1629 Orrington Ave)
- Patisserie Coralie - French (600 Davis St)
- That Little Mexican Cafe - Mexican (1010 Church St)
- Funky Monk - Mongolian/Russian (618 1/2 Church St)

Other

- Blaze Pizza (1737 Sherman Ave)
- Clarke's (720 Clark St)
- Epic Burger (1622 Sherman Ave)
- Edzo's Burger (1571 Sherman Ave)
- Chipotle (711 Church St)
- Flat Top Grill (707 Church St)
- Buffalo Joe's (812 Clark St)
- LYFE Kitchen (1603 Orrington Ave)
- Panera Bread (1700 Sherman Ave)
- Potbelly (630 Davis St)
- Five Guys (816 Church St)

Snacks and Drinks

- Kung Fu Tea (726 Clark St)
- Bennison's Bakery (1000 Davis St)
- Andy's Frozen Custard (719 Church St)



Potential Keynote Speakers



Ji-Yeon Yuh

Dr. Ji-Yeon Yuh specializes in Asian American history and Asian diasporas. She has done research on Korean military brides, refugees from North Korea, socialist Koreans in China and Japan in the post-WWII period, and on the Korean reunification movement in the United States. She has presented her research in Japan, China, Singapore, England, and at various conferences both international and U.S.-based. She is a co-founder of the Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea, an organization advocating peace on the Korean peninsula and serves as their Media Liaison and National Spokesperson. She is currently the Director of Asian American Studies at Northwestern.



Nitasha Sharma

Dr. Nitasha Sharma is writing her second book, *Hidden Hapās: Multiracial Blacks and Blackness in Hawai'i*, which analyzes how mixed race people negotiate, express, and repress race as they identify across constructed racial categories. Her academic activities are based on an interdisciplinary, comparative, and ethnographic approach to the study of difference, inequality, and racism. The central goal of her teaching, research, and writing is to develop models for multiracial alliance-building by zeroing in on cultural phenomena that unearth and challenge the factors that structure contentious race relations.



Phil Yu

Also known as Angry Asian Man, Phil Yu is a Korean American blogger who is nationally recognized for his commentary on Asian American issues. Yu graduated with a B.S. in Radio/TV/Film from Northwestern University and earned a M.A. in Critical Studies from the University of Southern California School of Cinematic Arts. Yu is also a recipient of the 2011 Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Award for Excellence in New Media from the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus, the 2011 Public Image Award from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and the 2011 Excellence in Media Award from OCA-Greater Los Angeles.

Potential Entertainment



Jenny Zhang

Jenny Zhang is a Chinese American writer who has authored two books, an essay and poetry collection, and has been published in Poetry, Rookie, Jezebel, Dazed & Confused, the Hairpin, Adult, BuzzFeed, and Lenny Letter. Jenny's style has been described as hilarious, intimate, dream-like, conversational, and sharply intelligent. Her BuzzFeed Books essay feature on Michael Derrick Hudson brought attention to identity politics within the writing world, while introducing her to a larger audience. Her writing for Rookie ruminated on intersectional girlhood and adolescence and immigrant upbringing. She has a short story collection due this Fall.



Run River North

Run River North, formerly known as Monsters Calling Home, is a Korean American indie folk-rock band that formed in 2011. Its early works were inspired by the band members' Asian American parents' background. The band performed at venues across Southern California, including Super Concert, the DRIP coffeeshop in Los Angeles' Koreatown, and the Kollaboration 11 competition at the Nokia theatre on December 5, 2011. The band released their self-titled, debut album, "Run River North" on February 25th, 2014.



Anubhav

Northwestern's premier competitive Hindi Film & Fusion Dance Team. Anubhav has placed in 19 competitions across the nation including a national title, in 2014, when the team won the 5th annual Bollywood America Filmi-Fusion Dance Championship. Since 2014, Anubhav has set their dance to storylines that showcase South Asian American history, identity, culture, and shed light on the complexities of the Indian American experience. The team fuses a variety of traditional, folk, and classical dance forms with modern styles such as contemporary, lyrical, hip-hop, and Bollywood which represent the diverse background of their members.

Potential Workshops

Identity & Activism

Steve Hosik Moon - Healing Through Art and Activism

Moon is the Director of Organizing at Advancing Justice-Chicago. He has over a decade of experience in youth development and organizing. Through his work, Steve remains committed to liberatory pedagogy, critical creative arts including Hip Hop, and mental health for immigrant and refugee communities.

Nadine Naber - Arab America: Gender, Cultural Politics, and Activism

Naber is an associate professor at UIC research. Her research draws on the intersection of transnational feminisms; women of color and queer of color theory; de-colonizing feminisms; Middle East Studies; Arab American Studies; etc. to theorizes the racialization of Arab and Muslim Americans within the contexts of empire and diaspora.

Shair Fenton - Challenges Facing Southeast Asian American Youth

Fenton is the Executive Director of Asian Youth Services. Originally located in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, AYS was established in order to meet the needs of the many Southeast Asian refugee families who had fled from ongoing genocide, war, and oppression in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

Ken Gonzales - Student Activism on College Campuses

Gonzales, a senior at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities brings with him a wealth of student organizing experiences having served or currently serving on the boards of the several students organizations as an undergrad. He has transferred his student organizing experiences to nonprofit work through his internships with several NGOs.

Yujin Maeng - Individual Voices: What WE Can Do

Northwestern alumna and recipient of the 2015 Asian/Asian American Heritage Award, Maeng has shown dedication to the AAPI community through her work as former president of Northwestern's Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) and as the Youth and Immigrant Rights Organizer of the Korean American Resource and Cultural Center.

Identity & Politics

Jason Tengco - AAPI in Politics: Our Civic Duty

Tengco was appointed as Deputy Director of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAPI) on May 4, 2015. Throughout his career, he has mentored youth to become civically responsible members of their community. His issue areas included AAPI affairs, homeland security, and immigration.

Abin Kuriakose - The Rising Tide of Asian Americans in Politics

Kuriakose is currently Deputy Chief of State to Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer (Tenth District), and a Chicago Fellow of the New Leaders Council. This year, he also served as the Special Projects Coordinator for Illinois Congressional candidate Raja Krishnamoorthi, utilizing his education in business to propel him in campaign work.

Ann Limjoco - APIDA + Women in Politics: Get Your Voice Heard

Prior to entering public service, Limjoco was a news reporter. She now works for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky and currently serves as her Suburban Director and liaison to the Asian Pacific American community. In 2010, she represented the United States in Kosovo as part of an Emerging Young Professionals exchange program.

Kathleen Fernalda - Multi-Ethnic Coalition Building in the Midwest

Yang-Clayton (Fernalda) is the Deputy Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago and brings extensive academic and applied policy experience through campaigns and policy work that have focused on winning state funding for Hepatitis B for foreign-born populations in IL, voting rights campaigns and language access.

Ji-Yeon Yuh - Lived Realities: War Brides, Mail Order Brides and Military Prostitutes

Dr. Yuh the Director of Asian American Studies at Northwestern and the author of *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown: Korean Military Brides in America*, a history of Korean women who immigrated to the United States as the wives of U.S. soldier. She specializes in Asian American history and Asian diasporas.

Identity & Career

Steven Chu - Engineering with an Agenda: Why Leadership is Important in STEM

Dr. Chu was charged with helping implement President Obama's ambitious agenda to invest in clean energy, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, address the global climate crisis, and create millions of new jobs. He is also the co-recipient of the Nobel Prize for Physics (1997) and received numerous other awards.

Shane Carlin - Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: A Workshop on Corporate Leadership

Carlin is the founder and president/CEO of Asian Student Achievement, a company that helps Asian high school and college students advance in their future. His professional career has been in fundraising and student affairs at Northwestern, UIUC, and Miami University.

Joseph Lee - Dream Bigger: Learning How to Be an Advocate in Any Career

Lee is a 2009 Northwestern alumnus. He is currently practicing medicine and public policy research at the University of Chicago and has been a community representative at Northside College Prep since 2009. He is the founder of the Road Less Traveled Fund which provides cars to low-income families.

Andrew Kang - Uncovering Systemic Violence Against Asian Americans

Kang is the Legal Director at Advancing Justice-Chicago, focusing on voting rights, legislative advocacy, and language access issues. Currently, he sits on the Korean American Bar Association Chicago's board and serves on the Chicago Commission on Human Relations.

Niala Boodhoo - Media Entrepreneurship and Amplifying the Asian American Experience

Boodhoo is the executive producer of *The 21st*, a new statewide, interactive weekday talk show for Illinois. She is the National Vice-President for Broadcast for the Asian American Journalists Association and has been a journalist for publications such as Reuters, The South Florida Sun-Sentinel and The Miami Herald.

Identity & Culture

Andrew Leong - Understanding History Through Asian American Literature

Dr. Leong is a comparativist who works primarily in English and Japanese, with additional interests in Spanish and Portuguese. Leong has taught courses spanning a range of textual and visual media—from nineteenth and twentieth-century Japanese and American literature to comics and manga; to Westerns, film noir, and Japanese period drama.

Nitasha Sharma - Hip Hop Culture Desis

Dr. Sharma's first book, *Hip Hop Desis: South Asian Americans, Blackness, and a Global Race Consciousness*, analyzes how second generation members of an upwardly mobile and middle-class immigrant group use hip hop to develop racial—and not just ethnic—identities.

Laura Fugikawa - Asian Americans & Pop Culture

Dr. Fugikawa is a visiting assistant professor at Northwestern and currently finishing a book manuscript, *Displacements: the Cultural Politics of Relocation*, which is a comparative analysis of narratives surrounding the relocation and assimilation campaigns of Japanese American and American Indian communities.

Lakhi Siap - Finding Common Ground: The Asian American Narrative

Born and raised in Cebu City Philippines, Siap immigrated to Chicago in 2006 and immediately became involved with the Asian American community. In 2009, he cofounded Ascene Chicago, a media marketing & events company that aims to promote unity within Asian American community.

Tatsu Aoki - Asian Americans in Cinema

Aoki founded the Chicago Asian American Jazz Festival twenty years ago and is a senior member of Jazz Me Blues. He is currently active with several coups as a musician, producer, and composer, and has recorded six acclaimed solo CDs. He has deep connections in both the worlds of experimental music and the folk arts.

Sample Schedule

Friday

7:00 - 10:00 PM Registration & Campus Event

Saturday

8:30 - 9:30 AM Late Registration

9:30 - 10:30 AM Opening Ceremony

10:30 - 10:50 AM Small group session 1

11:00 - 11:50 AM Workshop session 1

12:00 - 12:50 PM Workshop session 2

1:00 - 2:15 PM Lunch

2:15 - 2:30 PM Small group session 2

2:40 - 3:30 PM Workshop session 3

6:30 PM Banquet doors open

7:00 - 9:30 PM Dinner/Keynote/Closing remarks

Budget: Expenditure

Facilities	Minimum	Maximum
Norris Center (Workshop and Speakers)	\$0	\$0
Banquet Venue Rental	\$0	\$0
Banquet Food (Dinner + Glassware + Service)	\$5,000	\$7,000
Saturday Lunch	\$0	\$100
Entertainment & Workshops		
Friday Night	\$0	\$0
Banquet Entertainment (Honorarium, Lodging, Transportation)	\$1,500	\$5,000
Keynote Speaker Honorarium	\$500	\$2,500
Workshop Facilitators (Travel Reimbursement + Lodging)	\$700	\$1,100
Lodging	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$100
Registration		
T-shirts	\$800	\$1,200
Folder/Name Tags/Pens	\$500	\$600
Marketing		
Program Copies	\$800	\$1,000
Website	\$100	\$200
MASTER TOTAL	\$9,900	\$19,100

Budget: Revenue

Registration	Minimum	Maximum
Registration Fee from MAASU PayPal	\$4,000	\$4,500
Sponsorships		
Campus Life	\$800	\$1,300
President's Office	\$500	\$2,000
Multicultural Student Affairs	\$800	\$1,500
Asian American Studies Program	\$600	\$800
Donations from Corporations	\$600	\$1,500
Other Student Groups	\$600	\$3,500
Fundraising		
Crowdfunding	\$1,300	\$3,000
Northwestern University Asian and Asian American Alumni Association (NU-A5)	\$700	\$1,000
MASTER TOTAL	\$9,900	\$19,100

