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Local Community Leader Receives International Honors

Paul Fong, trustee of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, will be inducted into the Asian Academy Hall of Fame

San Jose, California-- September 15, 2006 -- The Asian Leaders Association announced the selection of Paul Fong, trustee of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, as a 2006 inductee into the international Asian Academy Hall of Fame.

Dr. Andrea Sigler, Board Chairperson for the Asian Leaders Association, noted that Fong was selected for this honor based on his impressive accomplishments and the notable impact he has made in his community.

Fong was nominated by Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), the largest community-based organization focused on Asian Americans in Santa Clara County. Fong has served for many years on AACI's Board of Directors.

Fong is a Santa Clara County small business owner, a political science professor at Evergreen Valley College, and a member of the Sunnyvale post of the American Legion. Since 1993, he has also served as an elected trustee of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District. In addition, he serves on the boards of the Association of Community College Trustees, the Community College Trustees of California, and Community Housing Developers.

Affectionately known as a "godfather" of the Silicon Valley Asian American community, Fong has been a local community activist for over 30 years. He has advised dozens of nonprofit organizations and mentored hundreds of students and local, state, and national candidates for elected office.

"I'm surprised and honored to receive this recognition," said Fong. "My passion is serving the local community. This is just icing on the cake."

Fong will participate in an award ceremony in the Czech Republic on November 13, 2006. Past honorees include U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

About the Asian Leaders Association:

The Asian Leaders Association is based in Virginia and seeks to provide a home where leaders of Asian organizations can solidify friendships, gather, exchange ideas, and get involved in worthwhile programs and projects. (www.asianleaders.org)

About Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI):

Focusing on the diverse Asian American community, AACI's mission is to improve the health, mental health, and well-being of individuals and their families by providing an array of human services. AACI empowers the Asian American community by working collaboratively for equality and social justice. (www.aaci.org)

Contact:

Kathleen Cordova
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI)
2400 Moorpark Avenue, Suite 300
San Jose, CA 95128
(408) 975-2730 ext. 102
kathleen.cordova@aaci.org

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