

NEWS

Asian Pacific Fund Announces Tien Education Leadership Awards

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14 /PRNewswire/ — The Asian Pacific Fund announced the selection of two as recipients of the second annual Chang-Lin Tien Education Leadership Awards: Norman C. Tien, Dean of the Case School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University, and Frank H. Wu, Dean of the Wayne State University Law School. Tien and Wu will each receive an unrestricted grant of \$10,000.

The awards program honors the legacy of Chang-Lin Tien, the first Asian American to head a major American research university. Chang-Lin Tien served as chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, from 1990 to 1997, and was a founding member of the Asian Pacific Fund's Board of Directors. This program was created by the Asian Pacific Fund recognizing that Asian American leaders offer valuable skills and important insights to higher education that boost our global competitiveness, especially as college campuses grow more diverse. The Tien Awards program recognizes the accomplishments of rising Asian American leaders in higher education to support their professional development and advancement.

"Dr. Chang-Lin Tien's achievements in promoting excellence and diversity continue to inspire us. He was a role a model for us all," said Henry T. Yang, chancellor of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a member of the advisory selection committee. Other committee members included: Dr. Bob Suzuki, President Emeritus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Leslie Tang Schilling, Regent of the University of California; Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of California State University, Bakersfield; and Dr. David Pierpont Gardner, President Emeritus of the University of California. This committee of higher education leaders reviewed nominations and made recommendations to the Asian Pacific Fund Board for final selection.



Norman C. Tien

Dr. Norman C. Tien is the dean and Nord Professor of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University's Case School of Engineering. He is also the Ohio Eminent Scholar in Condensed Matter Physics. Tien, a first-generation Chinese American, joined the Case faculty in January 2006 as the Nord Professor of Engineering and chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) and was appointed dean in February 2007. A National Science Foundation CAREER award recipient, Tien received his Ph.D. from the University of California at San Diego, his M.S. from the University of Illinois, and his B.S. from the University of California at Berkeley.

"[Norman Tien's] intellect and creativity are matched by a basic decency and sincere concern for the success of all of his constituents — faculty, researchers, graduate students, and undergraduates alike," said Barbara R. Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University. "Norman's energy and enthusiasm are infectious, and I have enormous confidence that our school will reach new heights during his tenure as dean."



Frank H. Wu

Frank H. Wu is the author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* which entered an immediate second printing in its hardcover edition, and coauthor of *Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment*. In 2004, he returned to his hometown of Detroit to serve as the ninth Dean of Wayne State University Law School. From 1995 to 2004, he served on the law faculty of Howard University. He has been an adjunct professor at Columbia University, a visiting professor at University of Michigan, and a teaching fellow at Stanford University. Dean Wu serves as a Trustee of Gallaudet University. Prior to his academic career, Dean Wu held a clerkship with the late U.S. District Judge Frank J. Battisti and practiced law with the firm of Morrison & Foerster.

He received a B.A. from the Johns Hopkins University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan. "Under [Dean Wu's] leadership, Wayne State Law School has transformed itself in a few short years. It is a diverse institution which embodies a spirit of social justice, scholarship and inclusion which mirrors the ideals exhibited by its dean," said Richard Bernstein, a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors.

The Tien Awards program expanded to a national scale this year, and the number of candidates more than doubled. Since receiving a Tien Award in 2007, Sung-Mo "Steve" Kang was appointed chancellor of the University of California, Merced, the UC system's newest campus. The other award recipient in 2007 was Belle W. Y. Wei, the Don Beall Dean of Engineering at San Jose State University.

Asian Americans are significantly underrepresented at high levels of academic leadership. According to a 2005 report by the Committee of 100 (<http://www.committee100.org/>), Asian Americans hold just over 6 percent of all faculty positions (40,000) at American universities, but only 1.5 percent of university president positions. A 2007 New York Times article noted that Asian Americans typically make up 10 to 30 percent of students at the nation's leading colleges and universities.

"Dr. Tien inspired many people, including those close to home." said Gail Kong, executive director and president of the Asian Pacific Fund, adding that "One honoree is Dr. Tien's son."

The leaders of private and public academic institutions throughout the U.S. were invited to submit nominations, including members of the American Council on Education, the Association of American Colleges and Universities and other national higher education organizations.

The Asian Pacific Fund is a community foundation established to improve the health and well-being of all Asian Americans in the Bay Area. By providing services and awarding grants to more than 90 Asian organizations, the Fund supports a broad range of local groups that help a diversity of Asian Americans. The Fund is the only organization in the Bay Area focused exclusively on working closely with Asian donors, raising funds for community agencies and public education projects, and ensuring that contributions have a lasting impact.