

EVENT



Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA-Seattle Annual Convention
Asian American Luminary Awards & APA Scholarship Awards
Sep 15th, 2019 Westin Bellevue, WA

2019 Asian American Luminary Awards (AALA) News Release – 9/12/2019

OUTSTANDING ASIAN AMERICANS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE ASIAN AMERICAN LUMINARY AWARD DURING 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION FOR CHINESE INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERS/USA-SEATTLE



Seattle, Washington (September 12, 2019) – The 2019 *Asian American Luminary Awards* (AALA) ceremony will be held at the Westin Hotel, Bellevue, WA on September 15, 2019. Being the proud organizer of this event, Chinese Institute of Engineers-USA would like to invite you to join us to honor the six distinguished award recipients in four different categories. All recipients are first generation immigrants from

Asia. This year, both Corporate Leadership Award recipients are from local high-tech giant Amazon, and the two recipients of the Science and Engineering Innovation Award are from the University of Washington.

The recipients of the 2019 Asian American Corporate Leadership Award are:

- **Wei Gao**, Vice President and Technical Advisor to Amazon CEO and Founder Jeff Bezos



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- **Dorothy Nanyan Li (aka Dorothy Nicholls)**, Vice President of Technology with Amazon Web Services (AWS)

The recipients of the 2019 Asian American Science and Engineering Innovation Award are:

- **Dr. YinHai Wang**, Professor in transportation engineering at Civil and Environmental Engineering and Adjunct Professor at Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Washington
- **Dr. Jihui Yang**, Department Chair and Kyocera Chair Professor in Materials Science and Engineering Department, University of Washington

The recipient of the 2019 Asian American Services Award is:

- **Chang Chio Tien**, President, Chinese American Forum

The recipient of the 2019 Asian American Entrepreneurial Achievement Award is:

- **Dr. Shih-Jong (James) Lee**, CEO, DRVision Technologies

The year's *Special Award* will go to **Martha Choe**, the first Korean American elected to the Seattle City Council, former director of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (later Washington State Department of Commerce) under governor Gary Locke, and former Chief Administrative Officer of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



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“Washington State’s talented engineers help shape the future of our families and communities by envisioning new and innovative solutions to the complex challenges of the 21st century. I applaud each of you for your personal commitment to excellence and for your many contributions to our great state.” quoted from the greeting letter by Governor Inslee.

The Asian American Luminary Awards (AALA) is a platform to honor and celebrate outstanding Asian American professionals and leaders with high achievements and contributions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) within Pacific Northwest. Award nominees are evaluated and judged based

on such criteria and weighing factors. The primary drivers of the selection process are the merits of their contribution and positive impacts on society.

Every year, the open nomination process starts in April and ends in July. This year, the independent judge committee led by Mr. Conrad Lee, member of Bellevue City Council, is responsible for evaluating all nominations.

Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA-Seattle
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