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Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership Education Awards Program & Breakfast Saturday, March 24, 2007, Radisson Hotel SE - Aurora, CO



Academic Achievement

Student Leadership

Teaching

Community Volunteer

Community Volunteer

Teaching

Student Leadership

Academic Achievement

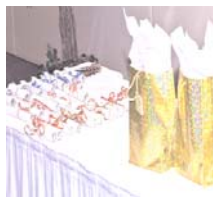


above photo: The keynote address was given by **Dr. Thelsa Thomas Pulikottil**, soon to be Chief Resident, and **Dr. David Lee** of Internal Medicine at Exempla Saint Joseph's Hospital. **Dr. Pulikottil** graduated from medical school at the University of Mumbai, India, and is a member of the Maharashtra Medical Council in Mumbai. She is fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam and Marathi. **Dr. Lee** received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He received two Bachelor of Arts degrees in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Colorado. He volunteered over 500 hours at Denver General Hospital. He speaks basic Korean and basic Spanish. Together, they expertly inspired the students to continue their education and pursue their goals with enthusiasm.

Photos of these deserving winners were taken by photographer **Kit Williams**.

THE SEVENTH **Aurora Asian/Pacific Community Partnership Education Awards Program** was attended by 275 students, parents, teachers, counselors and administrators from Aurora schools, as well as leaders in the APA communities, the City of Aurora and sponsors. **Mayor Ed Tauer** gave welcoming remarks. **John L. Barry**, APS Superintendent of Schools, was gracious to help out on the stage and offer his congratulations to each nominee (you'll see him at center in the group photos below). Outgoing **Co-Chair Nancy Webster McKinney** (2002-2007) emceed the event. She was given an **Award of Distinction** by Partnership members (above right).

This year's student essay theme was *"If you could hang out with one or two famous people from the past or in the present, how would you spend the day and why?"* There are some amazingly creative and intelligent students in Aurora and the selection process is quite difficult! The selection committee's job was to read through 42 thoughtful and intriguing nominations and narrow the list to the final eleven high school and six middle school student awards for academic achievement and student leadership (many nominated for both). Eight elementary school students received gift certificates for excelling both in the classroom and socially, setting the example for other students by developing good study habits and helping others with kindness and friendship (*elementary group photo directly below left; middle school group at right*).



Charina Perez of Rangeview High School wins the **Spirit Award** for perseverance.



Above, left to right - **Young Lim** of **Smoky Hill High School** is considered in the top 1% of students that nominator **Dr. Peggy Lane** has taught over her 27-year career. He won high honors for Academic Achievement; *several High School winners shown center*; **Suzanne Ngo** poses with members of the **Denver Chinese Culture Center of Colorado**, who are so proud of the Student Leadership award winner from **Smoky Hill High School**. Science Coordinator **Mary Bartholomew** counts Suzanne in the top five students of her 25-year career. In Suzanne's acceptance speech, she said that she leads by helping others accomplish their goals.

Outstanding Community Volunteer

Lina Chen (above left with friends, including Academic Achievement winner **AhnThu Nguyen** at center) was transformed as a "shy and not very outgoing person" at a leadership camp through Asian Pacific Development Center's Youth Serving Youth Program. One cannot imagine describing her that way now! She gives her time to help others at **Rangeview High School** and in the community. She is a leader on the above-mentioned nonprofit Youth Council, volunteered with the Cherry Creek Diversity Conference, and "has been a fantastic support for the Peer Counseling Program". Lena quoted Mother Teresa in her essay, *"Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."* Lina lives by this philosophy in her many volunteer activities.

For a complete list of winners and brief biographies, visit www.auroraasian.org.

Souneth Ly was nominated by five of his teachers at **Aurora Hills Middle School** for the **Spirit Award**. He came to the U.S. from Cambodia in July 2006, not knowing English, but growing in proficiency daily. After four rough drafts, Souneth's essay demonstrated his "fighting" attitude toward achieving a new life and making new friends in the U.S. - his role models are Rocky Balboa and Jackie Chan.

Sol Pinoy began as performers of traditional Filipino dances from various Filipino community organizations. The group is a trendsetter in the dance community, infusing Filipino and Hip Hop dance that have made them popular in Colorado over the course of the past year. Members of Sol Pinoy remain faithful to their folk heritage, while enriching the traditional dances with creativity, artistry and audacity.

Partnership **Co-Chair Edith Pasion** was instrumental in obtaining the program's keynote speakers and entertainment. Thank you!



SOL PINOY

THE CHAMBER
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PREMIER BANK

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ASIAN ROUNDTABLE OF COLORADO

Acknowledgements

EDUCATION AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE
Co-Chairs Edith Pasion and Nancy Webster McKinney
 Eed Cefkin, Harvey Lee, Kam Leung, HuiLiang Liu, Sum Nguyen, Lily Shen, Kate Tauer, Gloria Williams, Batbayar Yanjiv, Nai-li Yee and George Yoshida

Frankie Anderson, Brian Gallagher and Vicky Lubthisophon also served on this planning committee.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY SPONSORS!

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Denver Thai Lions Club * Denver Chinese Culture Center of Colorado
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 AsiaXpress.com * Paul & Kate Tauer * Best Buy * CompUSA
 Unified Vietnamese-American Council of Colorado
 The Partnership's Education Committee Members

METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE of DENVER

*Learning is like rowing upstream:
not to advance is to drop back.*
-- Chinese saying

Students were able to visit with representatives from the following colleges:

- * Community College of Aurora
- * Community College of Denver
- * Metropolitan State College of Denver
- * University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center

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