

**Why Education Data Disaggregation Matters:
Challenges and Opportunities to Closing the Achievement Gap for
Southeast Asian American Students
Friday, September 5, 2014
Fresno City Council Chambers
Fresno, CA**

Speaker Biographies

Gena Lew Gong

Gena Lew Gong is an adjunct faculty member teaching Asian American Studies at Fresno State and Fresno City College while also volunteering as the President of Central California Asian Pacific Women. Her prior nonprofit experience in Los Angeles includes serving as Director of Development at A New Way of Life Reentry Project; Executive Director of the Asian Pacific Community Fund; and Director of Public Policy and Communications at Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP). She holds a BA from UC San Diego and an MA in Public Policy from Duke University.

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Hiromi Kubo

Hiromi Kubo is the Business and Economics Librarian at California State University, Fresno. She received a Master's of Arts degree in Information Science and Learning Technologies from the University of Missouri, Columbia in 2003. She served as Reference and Instruction Librarian at Arkansas State University from 2004 to 2008 and taught the library research course. She was President of Asian Faculty and Staff Association at Fresno State in 2013-2014.

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Yoshiko, Takahashi

Dr. Yoshiko Takahashi is an associate professor and the victimology option coordinator in the Department of Criminology at California State University, Fresno. She has been involved in various program evaluation and research projects, including an assessment of the impact of the realignment of the California state prison population; the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) project; a crime victimization survey in California's Central San Joaquin Valley; a survey on elder abuse issues in India and the United States; and a student learning outcome assessment. Her major contribution to the projects is the development of the survey, database management, and statistical analysis.

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Cassandra L. Joubert, ScD

Dr. Cassandra Joubert is the Director of the Central California Children's Institute (CCCI) at California State University, Fresno and Professor in the Department of Public Health. In her role as CCCI Director, she provides leadership for an array of community-oriented projects and training programs devoted to improving the health and well-being of children in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Prior to joining academia six years ago, Dr. Joubert worked for ten years in the philanthropic sector developing and overseeing health promotion programs for women, teens and children. Dr. Joubert received the Doctor of Science degree in maternal and child health from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, a certificate in infant-parent mental health conferred by the University of Massachusetts at Boston, and her undergraduate degree in developmental psychology from Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. Joubert is a contributor to the first textbook ever published by the American Psychiatric Association on early childhood mental health, and is also the author of an award-winning book on children's mental health. She is an advocate for promoting positive social and emotional health of young children as a key strategy for life-long health. She received the 2013 Child Advocacy Award from Comprehensive Youth Services in Fresno. She is President of the Board of Directors for Exceptional Parents Unlimited (EPU), and is a board member of the National School-Based Health Alliance and the California Health Collaborative.

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Alice Yang

Alice Yang serves as the community resource developer for Stone Soup Fresno. She is a Fresno Unified graduate who received her Bachelors in Sociology and Ethnic Studies from UC San Diego. She is also an alumni of the Women's Policy Institute and worked in youth development policy. Her passion for education equity stems from her experiences as a low-income student of color in the Central Valley; this led to her undergraduate research and internship at the Preuss School with low-income and immigrant students. Her work at Stone Soup involves assessing Southeast Asian community needs, providing community workshops and trainings, and coordinating service provider cultural competency trainings; all of these activities focus on ensuring families transition towards self-sufficiency while being adequately supported by systems and institutions. Her work includes leveraging these community relationships and provider partnerships for Stone Soup's education advocacy on data disaggregation, common core standards, parent involvement, and the Local Control Funding Formula with national, state, and local partners including Families in Schools with their parent advocacy and Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) with their "All Students Count" national campaign and Campaign for High School Equity.

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Jonathan Tran

Jonathan Tran is the California Policy & Advocacy Manager of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC). Mr. Tran serves as SEARAC's lead advocate and community liaison in California, where the country's largest Southeast Asian Americans reside. Jonathan is also SEARAC's lead policy advocate on issues related to health care reform and aging on the national level. On a state and local level, Jonathan's advocacy work includes representing SEAA communities and families on issues related to the California State Budget, health and human services and education policy. He is also spearheading SEARAC's efforts around the Alliance for Boys and Men of Color and President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Initiative through the convening of the Southeast Asian American Young Men's Collaborative (SEAAYM), which focuses on empowering SEAA young men to become positive agents in transforming their community.

Prior to joining SEARAC, Jonathan worked in the California State Legislature, first as a Senate Fellow for State Senator Sheila Kuehl and then as a Legislative Aide for California State Assembly member Mike Eng. Jonathan is also active on a local level as an organizer for Hmong Innovating Politics and board member for the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project.

Jonathan holds a Bachelor of Arts in Asian American Studies and Political Science from the University of California, Los Angeles. During his undergraduate studies, Jonathan was actively involved in the Asian Pacific Coalition at UCLA. He was one of the founding organizers of the Count Me In! Campaign—a successful movement to disaggregate Asian American and Pacific Islander statistics gathered by the UC system. The son of Teo-Chew refugees from Vietnam, Jonathan was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, and currently resides in Sacramento, California.

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