



National Association  
of Asian American  
Professionals

AAGL Asian & Pacific  
Islander Heritage Month  
Celebration

# INNOVATE. INSPIRE. ASPIRE. ASIAN AMERICAN LEADERS INFLUENCING CHANGE





# 2018 AAGL Asian & Pacific Islander American Heritage Month Celebration

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates our vibrant, diverse cultures and recognizes the shared history of Asian and Pacific Americans. This event brings together sponsors for an evening of conversation around how Asian American leaders make a difference to the community, accompanied by cultural entertainment and networking.

## Program Agenda

4:00 PM	Registration opens
5:00 PM	Opening Entertainment – <b>Silly Point</b>
5:15 PM	Host Welcome - <b>Jim Kadola</b> Senior Vice President & Comptroller Health Care Services Corporation
5:20 PM	Speaker #1 - <b>Pallavi Verma</b> Senior Managing Director, Accenture
5:40 PM	Speaker #2 - <b>Kelly Taira</b> Managing Director – Consumer Banking & Merrill Edge, Bank of America
6:00 PM	Speaker #3 - <b>Krishna Ramachandran</b> Vice President, Health Data Strategy & Enterprise Network Operations, Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL
6:30 PM	Networking Reception & Entertainment by <b>SamaSama Project</b>



## **About Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation was signed into law.

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



## **About NAAAP-Chicago**

The Chicago chapter of the National Association of Asian American Professionals is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), Pan-Asian American professional organization that promotes the career advancement and leadership development of Asian American professionals in all fields through networking, respecting Asian multi-culturalism, and supporting diversity and community service.

## **About Asian American Group Leaders (AAGL)**

NAAAP-Chicago's Asian American Group Leaders Program consists of a network of Asian Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), Business Resource Groups (BRGs), and Multicultural Diversity Councils (MDC) across the Chicagoland area. The focus of this program is to:

- Help advance Asian ERGs/BRGs/MDCs to understand the value of diversity,
- Show the profit in the business case for diversity,
- Become better leaders for the company as well as the greater Asian community
- Help Asian leaders by sharing experiences, knowledge, insights and best practices, and
- Network with committed leaders to find and create more committed and successful leaders.

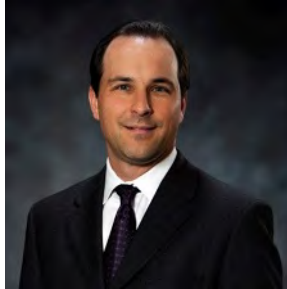
NAAAP is committed to becoming the role model leadership group for the rest of the USA.



*Emcee*

**Sharron Zhang**  
**PricewaterhouseCoopers**

Sharron Zhang serves mid to large size clients in various industries under PwC Assurance practice, where she specializes in audit of financial statements and internal controls under AICPA and PCAOB standards. Sharron is passionate about client service and delivering value to the clients through quality audits. Sharron graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University (ASU) undergraduate's program. She also graduated from the Master of Science in Accountancy at ASU where she was a part-time teaching assistant during the entire program. Sharron enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family in her spare time.



## *Host Welcome*

**Jim Kadola**

**Senior Vice President & Comptroller  
Health Care Services Corporation**

Jim Kadola is the senior vice president and controller for Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), a health insurer with more than 15 million members which operates as Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

As part of the HCSC senior leadership team, Jim works to identify, evaluate, and execute initiatives that support HCSC's long-term growth strategy and manage administrative costs. He also oversees the company's enterprise financial management functions, including the administrative expense budget, cost accounting and reporting, and procurement.



## *Keynote Speaker*

**Krishna Ramachandran**

**Vice President, Health Data Strategy &  
Enterprise Network Operations,  
BCBSIL**

Krishna has been a leader in health care for more than 15 years. He currently serves as Vice President of Health Data Strategy and Enterprise Network Operations at Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) and is responsible for developing and executing their health data exchange strategy with providers and external partners across five states. He also supports the analytics and operations for alternative payment models to increase value for more than 15 million members.

Krishna is passionate about collaboration, innovation, and use of data to improve patient access, outcomes, and to reduce cost of care.

Before joining BCBS in November 2017, he served as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of DuPage Medical Group (DMG) and its subsidiary Boncura Health Solutions. He was responsible for the analytics and operations of value-based care, revenue cycle, and practice management for DMG and



other health system clients. Before that, he held other executive roles at DMG, including Chief Information and Transformation Officer, and Executive Director of Value Driven Health Care.

Prior to DMG, Krishna served as Director of Technical Services of Epic Systems Corporation, a leading provider of health care software. At Epic, he was involved in large-scale electronic health record implementations across the U.S. for clients, including Kaiser Permanente, Cleveland Clinic Health System, Texas Health Resources, and Gesinger Health System.

Krishna is also an instructor in The University of Chicago's Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program, teaching the Big Data in Health Care course. Krishna is affiliated with several associations, including the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS). He holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from Birla Institute of Technology and Science (India); a Master of Science degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago; and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. In his free time, Krishna advises start-up health care IT companies, volunteers with local nonprofit organizations and enjoys traveling to new countries.





## *Keynote Speaker*

**Kelly Taira**

**Managing Director – Consumer  
Banking & Merrill Edge, Bank of  
America**

Kelly joined Bank of America's (BAC) Consumer Banking & Merrill Edge organization in May 2012. He leads a consultative team with a mission to drive Financial Center and Merrill Edge growth and profitability through three primary business dimensions:

1) planning and initiatives such as new specialist or advisor roles or physical site geographic coverage strategy, 2) financial center and Edge call center sales, service and operations platform design and personnel deployment, 3) business performance analysis and compensation.

Previously, Kelly was with the Global Wealth & Investment Management where he managed credit strategy, structured lending products and initiatives for their \$100Bn portfolio. Kelly joined the company through Merrill Lynch where he managed credit Pricing & Profitability for Merrill's business banking finance division.



Prior to BAC, Kelly was a product management executive at J.P. Morgan Chase in their treasury services division and at ABN AMRO as a CFO for their cash management and shared services divisions. Kelly started his career in business consulting and accounting at Accenture.

He is currently on the board of Easter Seals, DuPage Fox Valley region. Kelly lives in Chicago with his wife and 3 children.



## ***Keynote Speaker***

**Pallavi Verma**

**Senior Managing Director, Accenture**

Pallavi Verma, senior managing director, US – Midwest for Accenture is responsible for overseeing the company's business across 13 states including: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. With more than 10,000 people in the region, Pallavi focuses on bringing innovation to clients, attracting top talent and strengthening the company's impact in its local communities.



Since joining Accenture 30 years ago, Pallavi has built a reputation as a trusted and strategic client advisor, a dynamic and genuine leader and has driven significant business growth for the company. Prior to overseeing Accenture's Midwest business, she served as senior managing director of the State, Provincial and Local Public Service practice in North America – working with many clients across public-sector entities and higher-education institutions to implement complex systems to help them transform their organizations. In addition, Pallavi has been responsible for leading global quality and risk for Health & Public Service, where she oversaw quality, client satisfaction and risk management.

Pallavi serves on Accenture's North America Leadership Team, Global Leadership Council and is Vice President of the board of directors for the Accenture Foundation. She's on the board of Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Rush University Medical Center Leadership Committee and Democracy Prep Public Schools, a national charter network. She's also a member of the Commercial Club of Chicago, Economic Club of Chicago, International Women's Forum, and the Chicago Network.

In 2017, Pallavi was named the "Corporate Tech Leader of the Year," at the Women Tech Founders' Midwest Women in Tech Awards. In 2011, she was a recipient of the Top 25 Consultants award from Consulting Magazine, selected from more than 400 nominees. In December 2016, she was named by the Chicago Tribune as one of their "10 Business People to Watch in 2017."

Throughout her life, Pallavi has lived in more than 12 cities – both in and outside of the US – which has given her the ability to quickly adapt to varying cultures and business environments. She earned her bachelor's degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and resides in Chicago.



## *Entertainer* **Silly Point Comedy Troupe**

A hot and spicy new addition to the Chicago improv scene brought together by John Hildreth. This team of all Indian performers brings scene work and characters informed by personal stories, past experiences, and cultural heritage. We are Anirudhan Ramanathan, Prash Sabharwal, Resham Sarkar, Rohan Sinha, Tushar Vashisth.

## *Entertainer* **SamaSama Project**

SamaSama Project was launched as one of Chicago's premiere Filipino Folk Fusion band in 2008. "SamaSama"



translated as "united, together" truly live up to their name creating a blend of Filipino folk, rock, ska, and Latin music, inspired by a 1970s musical movement called Manila Sound.



Over the years, the talented group led by Baron Lloyd Cabalona, a versatile musician and arranger and wife, Lou Maningas Cabalona, a TV and musical theater actress in Asia and in the US have made their mark showcasing a fusion of Filipino traditional folk and contemporary music at many notable venues and events. SamaSama Project regularly performs around Illinois and other Midwest States notably at the Windy City Ribfest, Chicago Loop Alliance's ACTIVATE Series, Old Town School of Folk Music – World Music Wednesday Series, the Chicago Cultural Alliance's MOSAIC Fundraiser, Chicago Wildlife Conference, Bolingbrook Piyesta Pinoy 2014, Morton Grove Festival of Cultures, Northbrook's Taste of Asia. They also performed in Madrid, Spain for the Pope's World Youth Day MacroFestival Concert for over 12,000 youth.

As one of the top bands in the Filipino American community in Chicago, and current winners of the Battle of the Bands Elgin 2017, SamaSama Project is highly sought after in providing great live band entertainment for weddings, anniversary celebrations, birthday parties, debuts (18th birthday), holiday parties and corporate events.

Inspired by the drive to promote diversity through music, SamaSama Project continue to captivate audiences with their unique sound that transcends all boundaries.



## Sponsors

NAAAP would like to thank our 2018 AAPIHM sponsors:

**accenture**



**CNA**



**Deloitte.**



Interested in sponsoring one of our programs?

Contact Rose Olea at [rose-olea@naaapchicago.org](mailto:rose-olea@naaapchicago.org) to learn more.

# 2018 AAGL AAPIHM Planning Committee

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
Accenture	Mia Rahn Rachel Martin Linda Woo
Bank of America	Doreen Viloría Angelica Barrera Sandra Glover
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois	Wonjae Barry Su Tellapragada Janet Wu
CIBC	Tram Vo
CNA Insurance	Christina Buckler Vaishali Nagoree Noah Choi
Country Financial	Michael Fisher
Deloitte	Anil Bhat
Exelon	Radha Pillutla
Ernst & Young	Bernard Perales Anqi Zhang Eva Roman Fazell Zainal-Abidin
NAAAP-Chicago	Rose Olea Mike Valdez
Northern Trust	Jason Tian Ted Limjoco
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Michelle Chao In Chan Park Sharron Zhang



## NAAAP PROGRAMS & EVENTS



March – October

Women in NAAAP (WiN) is a special leadership program created and developed to build competent and confident women leaders within NAAAP and the Asian community.



August

The Back to School Backpack Drive is one of NAAAP's community outreach programs held during the year. NAAAP raises funds to purchase new school supplies for the children of low income families in the Asian American community.





December

This is NAAAP's longest running community outreach program now in it's 16<sup>th</sup> year! For many children of low income families, this is the only time of year they get a brand new toy! NAAAP helps make children's toy wishes come true by fundraising and collecting toys for the holidays.

Learn more about any or all NAAAP's programs at <http://www.naaapchicago.org>.

**NAAAP**  
CHICAGO

National Association  
of Asian-American  
Professionals

**Innovate. Inspire. Aspire.**  
**Asian American Leaders Influencing Change**



#NAAAP18

- **ERG** Summit
- **Keynote** Sessions by Thought Leaders
- **Workshops** (Standard & Executive Tracks)
- Diversity **Career** Fair
- **Network** & Nourish meal groups with speakers and senior leaders
- The **ATL Gala** featuring NAAAP 100 & Inspire Awards, and Chopstix for Charity



**ATL • AUG 23-25, 2018**

InterContinental Buckhead Atlanta

Registration begins April 1

[www.LeadershipConvention.org](http://www.LeadershipConvention.org)



National Association  
of Asian American  
Professionals

# Save the Date

**Asian American Group Leaders**

**2018 Corporate Leadership Conference**



National Association  
of Asian American  
Professionals

**October 11, 2018**

**Hosted by:**

**CDW**

**100 Tri-State International  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069**