

The 2024 Edition

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MAKING AN IMPACT AND
PAYING IT FORWARD



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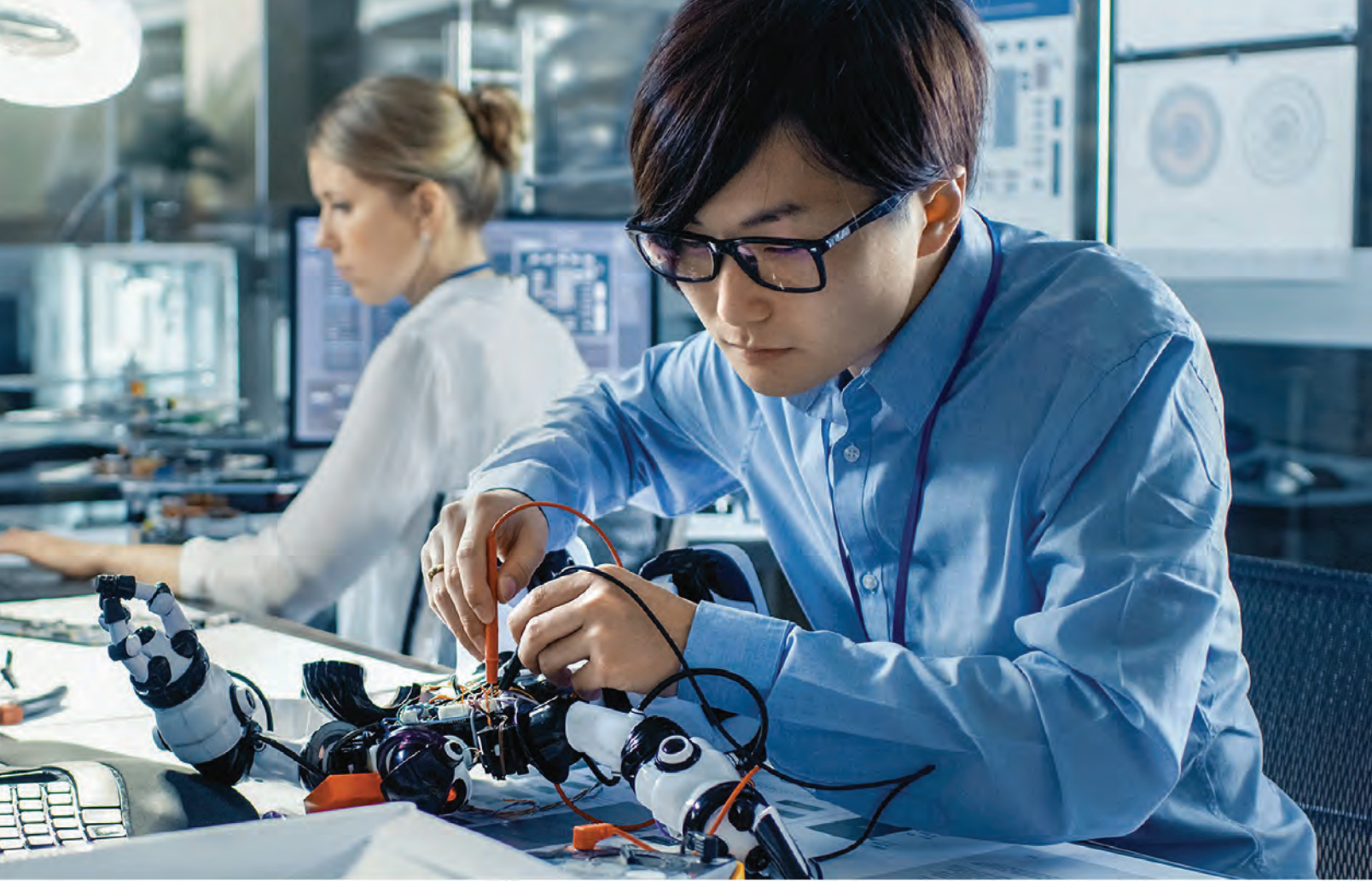
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Welcome to SASE from the CEO and Executive Director



Within the first decade, we established ourselves as the largest API organization in terms of geographic reach, number of chapters, and National Convention size. In our second decade, our vision is to build an organization that positively impacts and makes a difference for over two million API science, technology, and engineering professionals and students.”

Khánh Vũ
CEO and Executive Director
The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers

Last year’s National Convention (NC) marked the end of the pandemic era for us. We were thrilled by the overwhelming response from our student chapter, with a special shout-out to the University of Florida for sending over 150 attendees! Our professional attendees have also shown incredible enthusiasm, with tickets selling out completely! The atmosphere and energy at the 2023 NC made it clear that we are back in full force and that SASE is poised for explosive growth.

This year’s theme, “Ignite the Spark,” not only captures the spirit of NC but also the sense of community and belonging it fosters. This event brings together talented individuals from across the nation, serving as a launchpad for Asian Pacific Islander (API) scientists and engineers to forge meaningful connections, exchange ideas, and inspire one another. The convention features a vibrant array of workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to fuel professional growth and leadership development. Attendees engage in thought-provoking conversations, foster a strong sense of community, and share best practices.

This year, we are excited to offer nine concurrent tracks for professional attendees. This interactive environment allows participants to spark lasting connections, drawing inspiration from the stories and achievements of their peers. At the NC, we not only celebrate the outstanding

accomplishments of our community through the SASE Leadership, Achievement, and SASEsalutes Awards, but we also ignite the drive in others to become tomorrow’s leaders. The SASE NC is a testament to the power of our identity and achievements, serving as a catalyst for inspiration and empowerment, and encouraging our API community to make a profound impact on society.

This year, we launched the inaugural Asian Women in Tech (AWiT) Conference in collaboration with the Cisco Asian Affinity Network (CAAN) and the Asian Women Coaching Collective (AWCC). We welcomed over 200 attendees from Apple, Google, ServiceNow, and Cisco. The feedback was outstanding, and there is significant demand for this event to return next year. I envisioned SASE supporting the tech space in the mid-2010s, and this vision has been realized. I want to thank my team, CAAN, and AWCC for believing in this vision and executing a memorable inaugural event. Planning for the second annual AWiT conference is already underway.

Boston, known as “College Town,” embodies academic excellence and innovation with its high concentration of more than 50 colleges and universities. SASE has its highest concentration of collegiate chapters in Boston, and we expect record attendance from collegiate members at the NC and Career Fair. Last year, one of our sponsors interviewed more than 600 applicants and offered over 100 positions. Boston, with its

leading institutions in research and innovation, is poised to break new records for SASE, attracting global talent. Our sponsors will view this NC as a catalyst for uncovering a wealth of SASE talent and fostering future growth.

This November, SASE will celebrate its Sweet Seventeen! I served as the first Convention Chair of SASE as a volunteer and became the full-time CEO a month later in 2011. In 2017, I asked Shekhar Mitra and Tom Fernandez (co-founders of SASE) if they could have imagined SASE’s growth over a decade. They said they couldn’t. In just three years, SASE will reach its second decade, and the speed of our growth continues to amaze me. I am excited to see how NC2024 will propel SASE into the stratosphere as we approach 2025.

I invite you to join us on this journey of growth and igniting your spark! My heartfelt gratitude goes to our members, volunteers, sponsors, and the dedicated SASE staff for their invaluable support and unwavering commitment to our community. Without your tireless efforts and passion, this celebration would not have blossomed into the remarkable event it has become. I warmly welcome each and every one of you to the highly anticipated 2024 SASE NC. When our paths cross during the convention, please don’t hesitate to reach out and say hello.

#SASEfam4Life

Khánh Vũ
CEO and Executive Director

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Ignite the Spark!



On behalf of the SASE Board of Directors, I warmly welcome you to the 2024 SASE National Convention. Our theme of 'Ignite the Spark' prepares each of us to choose our own path with courage and wisdom. Further, it prepares each of us for accountability to help each other along the way."

Thomas J. Fernandez
Co-Founder and Board Secretary
The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers

I really love how the SASE National Convention (NC) allows for introspection. To have three full days to reflect, gather thoughts, and consider how workshop concepts personally apply is the perfect atmosphere to find that spark.

The path each individual takes has only become lonelier, especially due to COVID-19; years of forced isolation have not been good for anyone. In many ways, we all need help finding a new routine. For me, I know that something happened during COVID isolation that was not good for me. As an extrovert, I lost my normal way to energize by interacting with others. Zoom just was not sufficient. I needed to see and feel the sun to feel better, and I realized I had to make a choice on how I could have sunshine year-round for my health — which led me to my decision to retire and move to Florida. At the SASE NC, I urge you to similarly ask yourself how you're feeling and level set. It takes courage to be introspective, and while life is not solely about achievement, the convention offers

many opportunities to achieve and grow skills. I always enjoy leadership development, technical, and interpersonal workshops. Through convention feedback, I know hundreds of individuals experience personal growth as individuals — our conferences have a history for enabling such "sparks!"

Remember, though, that we are not alone on the path to ignite the spark. There is so much pressure in life — why not reach out to a friend, or, better yet, why not take even just one step to reach out to a friend? As I write this, I reached out to longtime friend and mentor Bao Nguyen. We have a call later today to catch up, listen, and see what is important to one another.

Through SASEFam, like Bao, I know my superpower is to feed people. So, I embarked on starting a second food rescue organization, Tamiame Food Rescue, to feed Floridians. I know what ignites my spark and have friends to help me along the journey. We have the SASE family, or #SASEFam as we call it, to help each other every step of the way.

As Asian Americans, we value family. Shekhar Mitra and I had no idea in 2007, when we co-founded SASE, that it would become such a family atmosphere. You can feel it, that feeling of love and support, where a family always has your best interest in mind. That is what it feels like at SASE, and it applies to each member of sponsors companies, recruiters, students, and SASE staff. We care for each other, and that helps us find our spark. Now, we need each other to be honest about what we see and what we see is holding someone back from achieving their full potential.

Go find your spark and help others ignite theirs! Have a wonderful SASE NC.

Thomas J. Fernandez
Co-Founder and Board Secretary
The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers



2024 Board of Directors

Treasurer

TABREZ MALIK



My inspiration to join the SASE Board of Directors stems from a deep commitment to the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Having experienced the transformative power of mentorship and community support throughout my career, I am driven to give back and help shape an environment where others can thrive. SASE's mission to support and develop Asian heritage professionals in STEM aligns perfectly with my personal and professional goals. Being on the board allows me to contribute to strategic initiatives that enhance professional development,

FUN FACTS
Favorite Food: It's difficult to name just one!
Favorite Book: I'm still searching...
Go-to Karaoke song: People will run away if I go to a Karaoke stage

advocate for greater representation in leadership roles, and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.



General Board Member

SHWETA KURVEY-MISHRA

FUN FACTS
Favorite food: Thai and Korean
Favorite book: Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know by Adam Grant
Go-to Karaoke song: Don't Speak – No Doubt

I was inspired to serve on the SASE Board of Directors for three primary reasons. SASE offers incredible opportunity for building a community of, for, and by Asians in the collegiate, professional, and executive formats that is important for us all to grow in our respective fields. It is a joy to see this grow over the years. I've also been so fortunate to have role models that provided guidance and



President

KISHORE SUNDARARAJAN

The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers represents a platform to foster leadership, innovation, mentorship, and community among Asian professionals. I joined the board of directors for the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers to empower and inspire the next generation of innovators in our community.

FUN FACTS
Favorite Food: Indian
Favorite Book: The Code Breakers
Favorite Song: Hotel California

insights in my journey, and being on SASE's Board allows me the opportunity to give back through mentorship and leadership. Lastly, the experiences, exposure, and access to so many smart, thoughtful, and intelligent achievers across all levels in the SASE organization has allowed me to learn and gain new skills while I contribute to the organization and to my own personal and professional growth.



Board Member

SONYA VIAL

SASE means community to me – an organization where people are supportive of one another and their personal and career development and lift each other up. I joined the Board of Directors because I truly believe in the SASE mission and want to use the experience that I have gained over the last 30 years in industry to support the SASE community in any way that is helpful.

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Lasagna

Favorite Book: Mysteries/thrillers, comedy memoirs, and business/organizational improvement

Go-to Karaoke song: No go-to song, but I like music from the 1970s to present and will (attempt to) sing anything.



Board Member

CATHERINE MCCULLY

Working for P&G, we've had ties with SASE since the beginning and it's an honor to help continue that legacy. Personally, as an Asian female technology professional, it's an honor to be able to help pay it forward to inspire more Asian scientists and engineers to reach their full potential.

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Soup

Favorite Book: Not necessarily my favorite, but one of the most significant for me is Joy Luck Club

Go-to Karaoke song: Something I can sing in my car

Co-Founder & Secretary

TOM FERNANDEZ



I love SASE's mission and that we interact as family. The #SASEfam bond enables all of us

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Lumpia

Favorite Book: The Bible

Favorite Song: MMBop by Hanson

to learn together and be ourselves. Also, family guides us in ways only a family can, to help us achieve our full potential. I have seen over my 17 years with SASE how this organization has helped thousands of Asian Americans be leaders and help others.

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Soup

Favorite Book: Not necessarily my favorite, but one of the most significant for me is Joy Luck Club

Go-to Karaoke song: Something I can sing in my car



Board Member

JASON CHAN

SASE has connected me with a vast network of individuals who have gone through similar challenges navigating the disconnect between our Eastern upbringing and the Western work environment. SASE's programming has helped me become aware of these realities and then take steps to overcome challenges and unlock my full potential. My career trajectory has been accelerating ever since getting involved with SASE. This inspired me to join the Board of Directors as a way to "pay it forward" and help others achieve their full potential as well.

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: NY Style Pizza

Favorite Book: Freakonomics

Go-to Karaoke song: Back at One

Board Member

DUSTIN NGUYEN



SASE to me is a close-knit community where everyone feels that they can be their authentic selves. It is the ideal place to feel welcomed and connected. This kind

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Cơm tấm sườn nướng (Vietnamese rice with marinated grilled pork chops)

Favorite Book: Ghostwritten by David Mitchell

Go-to Karaoke song: Lose My Breath by Stray Kids featuring Charlie Puth

of environment is what breeds the next generation of leaders. What inspired me to be on the Board of Directors was to give back my time and energy to an organization that put its time and energy into my growth, especially during the low and uncertain times in my early career. I feel that leaders are not leaders until they develop those under them to be the next leaders, and this position will allow me to do just that. I want to show our community that one can achieve remarkable things with the right kind of passion and dedication, regardless of where one comes from.



Board Member

MOHAMED ALI

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Chicken Shahi Korma

Favorite Book: The Alchemist

Go-to Karaoke song: N/A

My decision to serve on the SASE Board comes down to two simple truths: I so appreciate the diversity of SASE and its love for promoting engineers.

SASE Squad



The SASE Squad, from left to right, back row to front row:

- Richard Grainger, Director of Organizational Relationships
- Kent Lebsack, Manager of Finance and Operations
- Danielle Batin, Director of Collegiate Programs
- Rolland Huie, Manager of Information Technology
- Matt Diaz, Manager of Collegiate Programs
- Khánh Vũ, CEO and Executive Director
- Jessica Moy, Professional Programs Coordinator
- Gigi Elbert, Director of Conventions & Shared Services
- Paraag Maddiwar, Director of Professional Programs
- Han Le, Marketing Coordinator



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COLLEGIATE PROGRAMS

Join us in celebrating the outstanding achievements of our SASE Collegiate Chapters! They're blazing a trail toward a brighter future by nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. These remarkable chapters have orchestrated an array of captivating professional development events, equipping students with essential interpersonal skills that will set them up for success in the careers of their dreams.





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2024 Inspire Awards

The ultimate sign of leadership is the ability to inspire, and that's exactly what these chapters do. The winners of the 2024 Inspire Awards radiate role model qualities, proven through their outstanding numbers in event attendance, membership growth, and career opportunity offers.



OVERALL STRONGEST CHAPTER

Awarded to the chapter that made outstanding contributions to and for the advancement of SASE's three core mission statements: (1) prepare Asian heritage students for success in the global business world, (2) celebrate diversity and tolerance on campuses and in the workplace, and (3) provide opportunities for its members to make contributions to their local communities.

University of Florida

"In the 2023-2024 year, the University of Florida (UF) SASE Chapter continued its growth, increasing in membership from 355 to 437 members. UF SASE has been a dominant force locally, leading to our recognition as the 2023-2024 UF Student Organization of the Year and 'Life Long Learner' Excellence in Career Readiness! With the six programs and 74 events we've offered this year, there's always a way for members to be involved in our chapter.

Our SASE Interns Program provides leadership opportunities for 101 interns; the SASE Sports Program is represented by 93 intramural

teams with 719 team members; the Mentor-Mentee Program fosters relationships between 429 mentors and mentees; and the SASE Engineering Team allows 27 team members to develop their technical skills. Additionally, we've introduced an External Mentorship Program, pairing 34 members with 17 Asian-American professionals and a Web Development Team, allowing nine developers to remake our website from scratch!

On a national level, we've made our presence known by bringing 185 members to the SASE National Convention, hosting 275 attendees at the SASE Southeast Regional Conference and playing an active role in planning three

cross-chapter events this year! Our team has served as an approachable and enthusiastic resource for 10 other SASE chapters, providing guidance and support for anything from starting a new chapter to building a powerful team. We believe that a strong organization starts with having passionate, capable leaders who commit to their responsibilities and put themselves out of their comfort zone for the benefit of their team and members. As a leader, create an environment that people truly want to be a part of and celebrate the members who reflect your passion and commitment to SASE. When you really make an impact on your members, they won't hesitate to give back to the organization that has given so much to them."

HONORABLE MENTION

Texas A&M University

"SASE Texas A&M University (TAMU) endeavors to cultivate the academic, professional, and social growth of our members, furnishing new and old members alike with an inclusive and welcoming environment — a home away from home, with a dash of that trademark Aggie spirit. In keeping with that spirit, our chapter has never shied away from a challenge.

Our most noteworthy achievement was hosting the 2024 South Central Regional Conference (SCRC). A monumental effort of logistical, marketing, and financial coordination, we had various challenges and setbacks to overcome. We wanted to facilitate discovery and insight on various academic, professional, and cultural pathways. SCRC would have panels featuring women in STEM, opportunities in post-graduate

academia, and a K-Pop dance event. Along with SCRC, our chapter has held a strong professional record, whether connecting our members professionally or forging new ties with industry sponsors. Shell, a long-time sponsor, has been able to build a strong presence among our membership.

Moreover, our chapter believes in forging professional relationships with other campus organizations, as we've hosted multiple professional football tailgates with the National Society of Black Engineers. In addition to promoting opportunities for professional development, our chapter prioritizes creating an inclusive and welcoming environment. Through our SASE Squads, we break down the larger chapter into smaller



families to encourage deeper connections across members outside of general body meetings. Each squad caters to certain niches, from sports to baking to board games, encompassing the interests of almost every member. Our inclusivity expands past our members, as we often host interorganizational socials, with our most successful being the Latinos in Engineering volleyball social, which brought in over 50 combined members. We will continue to cultivate an inclusive community for our members, ensuring they achieve professional development, academic achievement, and social fulfillment."



MOST INFLUENTIAL CHAPTER

Awarded to the chapter that made the greatest positive influence in its community, region, and nation. Must be nominated by other chapters to be eligible for this award.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

“The Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) Chapter of SASE has pushed the organization to new heights. With over 200 members, making up over 30 percent of the Asian population on campus, SASE WPI is one of the largest clubs on campus. Recently awarded with the Diversity Program of the Year by WPI alongside the National Society of Black Engineers for our event, Elevate and Empower, SASE is dedicated to advocating for minority success. Our exponential growth is shown through our Mentor/Mentee Program, staying strong with over 100 participants this year, strengthening the bonds of our community, and building a sense of connection to SASE as a whole.

Aside from mentorship, SASE WPI finds other ways to commemorate diversity, the most notable being one of our flagship events, SASE Sitdowns, a discussion-based event that encourages our members to engage in discussion at the intersection of our identity, academic, and professional careers. SASE WPI is dedicated to our local community, evident in our service and fundraising throughout the year. Recently, our members helped raise \$17,000 for internationally displaced peoples in Burma during the Thingyan Water Festival, proving our commitment to Asian communities on the global scale. Our chapter would not have been able to get this far without the

dedication shown by countless members beyond those on the exec board.

To our fellow chapters: Always look for ways to give everyone in your organization a chance at demonstrating their commitment. Don't take everything onto your own shoulders — use the talent and passion other individuals in your SASEfam have to allow your entire chapter to blossom. The growth of our organization stems from our members' compassion and dedication, and we owe our success to every member of SASE WPI. We are incredibly proud of our accomplishments this year, and we look forward to the promising future ahead.”

HONORABLE MENTION

Purdue University



“2023-2024 was the year for the SASE Purdue chapter in terms of growth, improvement, and success. This past year, we saw an all-time record number of members, with over 250 registered students and overall retention right around 50 percent throughout events in our fall and spring semesters. For our mentorship

program, we had over 100 members participating, nearly doubling what we had in the previous year. In sum, our chapter hosted 47 events, 17 of which were professional and technical events. We had five corporate sponsors, each of which did a professional and networking event with us. Finally, we held over 15 collaborative events within the Asian community and with other student organizations and programs at Purdue.

We would like to thank our members and community for the immense support that they have shown us. Taking interest in what we do and embodying what it means to be a member of SASE is more than what we

could have asked for. And to our incredible executive team that made this year so special and rewarding: Without all of their hard work and dedication, SASE Purdue would not be the organization that it is today. That team, combined with the love from our members, was the catalyst for all the success that SASE Purdue has seen. We could not imagine what we would have done if it weren't for them. To SASE chapters, find the people and personalities that work with your goals; everything else will fall into place. As we look to the upcoming years, we hope to keep this momentum strong and wish everyone the best of luck! Boiler Up!”

OUTSTANDING NEW CHAPTER

Awarded to the chapter that was founded within the last two years and already made outstanding contributions to and for the advancement of SASE's three core mission statements: (1) prepare Asian heritage students for success in the global business world, (2) celebrate diversity and tolerance on campuses and in the workplace, and (3) provide opportunities for its members to make contributions to their local communities.

University of Georgia

"In our first year as a chapter, we established a strong relationship with SASE Nationals through our multiple meetings with Khánh Vũ and his team. Through their support, our chapter brought 16 members to conference within one month of being established. That year, we grew to 70 members. In our second year as a chapter, we grew our membership from 70 to 160 members, with a total of 490 attendees across all our events.

We have received recognition within the college through our win against 19 other engineering organizations during the Engineers Week 2024 competition. During our Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month Celebration, we had

15 APIDA subcommittee members organize weekly events throughout April, having the Dean of the College and all assistant and associate deans in attendance. At the APIDA Kick-Off Dinner, we had almost 80 attendees, catering from local Asian-owned restaurants, and a cultural performance by a student Lion Dance group. We have hosted over 20 events in the past year — a big commitment by our executive board but one that reaped an even bigger reward. We have set the organization up for more successes in the future. The key to our success and growth has been our amazing members, our overenthusiastic executive board, and our commitment to our vision and members."



HONORABLE MENTION

The Pennsylvania State University



"Within its early years, Penn State SASE has achieved remarkable growth. We have hosted over 80 events this academic year with attendance from at least 30 of our members. Subsequently, our organization's membership retention increased from 50 to 130 active members. We have also received support from all 14 of our corporate sponsors, who have allowed us to financially sustain our chapter and offer powerful professional development content. This helped our members prepare for National Convention, with talks on Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Perfecting your Elevator Pitch, enabling over 85 percent of our members at National Convention to land an interview! This growth in activity has allowed us to expand our Mentorship program and now support 25 pairs.

Our SASE chapter's influence extends beyond our campus, too. We have partnered with nine different local Asian restaurants and shops for our members to receive discounts to

encourage support to our Asian community. Our most successful and influential event has been our Lunar New Years Formal, where we had over 100 people celebrate with us and share how our different cultures ring in the Lunar New Year. We were even able to award \$200 worth of scholarships to our members! From this event and others we have held this semester, our organization has learned the importance of communication. To struggling or aspiring chapters, know that you are not alone! There is always someone who wants to help you succeed, so long as you communicate with them. This can be your advisors, leaders from other organizations, and your fellow SASE chapters. Building and running an organization is challenging, but stay focused on your why—your purpose and motivation—and leverage it when collaborating with your team, seeking sponsors, and engaging your members. With proper communication, determination, and support, your chapter can thrive. The entire #SASEfam is behind you!"



MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER

Awarded to the chapter that displayed the greatest growth, change, and improvement over the past academic year.

Virginia Tech

“This year, SASE at Virginia Tech has experienced incredible growth in membership, and this growth has been accounted for in the events we have been able to provide this year. We have made strong progress in demonstrating our commitment to the pillars of SASE. In preparing members for success in the global business world, we have seen increases in attendance for both social and professional development events. We have been able to provide a larger quantity of events than in previous years and have successfully funded our National Convention and Regional Conference for this year with peak attendance.

To celebrate diversity on campus and in the workplace, we have worked with several external organizations this year. As a part of larger umbrella organizations that encompass other Asian-American groups and minority engineering clubs, our events have proved that we place a lot of value in providing opportunities for all of our members who come from different backgrounds and fields. We wish to continue to provide resources that can assist as many members as possible. Through reinstatement of Service Chairs, we have emphasized to SASE members that there are several opportunities to engage with our community and uphold our commitment to

representing Virginia Tech. With significantly more events with new contacts and companies, we have been able to reach out to more SASE chapters and individuals to explore collaboration opportunities. Outside of events, our chapter has seen significantly more engagement in our community Discord server. Members have been using this space as much more of a resource and are able to seek advice and insight through upperclassmen. This year has featured a lot of adaptability to accommodate many more members, and, in the process, we ensured that members, new and old, could find some aspect of SASE that they resonated with.”

HONORABLE MENTION

Lamar University

“Gritty. Determined. Hard-working. These robust adjectives do not fully encapsulate what the Lamar University (LU) SASE chapter represents. Although we are a smaller school, the room for growth and expansion has been immeasurable.

The 2023-2024 year has been referred to as the ‘revival era’ for the LU SASE Chapter as evidenced by our substantial jump from two to 35 official members — an over 1500 percent increase. Although we are a smaller school, we seized every opportunity to embody the SASE spirit and grew passionate about doing so. Our SASE tabling has twice been recognized as the most creative amongst over 30 other student organizations with the help of eye-catching Asian decor. These tabling events, along with

hosting large events like the Water Lantern Festival and Lunar New Year Celebration, have given us the opportunity to expose more students to the significance of SASE while also celebrating the beautiful culture surrounding it.

Our social media presence has experienced exponential growth, with reels reaching 41,046 total views. This has allowed us to utilize our platform to share the opportunities within LU SASE to students of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and majors. Throughout the 2023-2024 year, we hosted more than 40 events aimed to foster students’ professional, cultural, and social growth. Being able to bring recognized companies like Dow and NASA to host professional events provided members with a glimpse into the potential of



SASE by raising awareness of the attainability of similar opportunities for themselves. To ensure students would be prepared for such opportunities, we hosted events like resume critiques and mock interviews with companies to further develop their professional skills. SASE at Lamar University has been nothing short of accomplished, proficient, and cultivating. As time will tell, our chapter will continue to flourish.”

MOST PHILANTHROPIC CHAPTER

Awarded to the chapter that demonstrated and embodied the greatest spirit of service within its chapter, community, region, and nation.

University of Texas at Arlington

"This year, our chapter is proud of several accomplishments. Logistically, we've seen all-time peaks for membership, event count, and finance growth. Our membership has grown 32.72 percent, peaking at 150 paid members, with a 156.52 percent growth in science majors. We hosted a total of 75 events throughout the year, which couldn't have been possible without the support of our three corporate sponsors. This can be broken down into six science events, not including our undergraduate research program; 28 SASE-related events; 19 social events; 10 professional development events; nine service events; and three cultural events. Additionally, our chapter was awarded one of our university's annual student organization awards for 'Outstanding Contribution to the Greater Community.'

Our proudest initiative is our science initiative, which includes science-based events for our members such as research

panels, environmental and medical awareness events, a blood drive, and a plant workshop, as well as an undergraduate research program. Our proudest event is Lonestar Throwdown, a South-regional event we had the honor of hosting that invites SASE members from various chapters to participate in a friendly, outdoor, field-day competition.

We believe our success can be attributed to several philosophies: Always keep your members in mind and remember that, as a board, your job is to provide opportunities for them to grow. Be open to criticism and look back on all your events with an open mind; talk about the good and bad things that happened and learn from them. Don't be scared to try new things for fear of failing, as growth only occurs once you get back up off the ground. Make lasting connections with your SASEfam and continue to develop yourself and your members through SASE. Finally, remember to have fun and enjoy SASE!"

**HONORABLE MENTION****Stevens Institute of Technology**

"SASE Stevens has achieved notable success this year, growing involvement and retention. We have organized various events and general body meetings, ensuring high turnouts and extending enthusiastic participation to the regional and national levels. We have focused on empowering our members with professional and social skills through workshops on resume building, networking, pitching, corporate etiquette, and STEM activities such as science fairs and Earth Day initiatives. Our approach to inclusivity was essential to our achievements this year, as we've collaborated with other cultural and professional on-campus organizations, as well as with companies like Merck, to ensure we represent a diverse range of interests and backgrounds within our events while remaining true to SASE's pillars.

One of our key strategies has been fostering strong relationships with other chapters. Being located in the New Jersey/New York City area has provided us with ample opportunities to connect with neighboring chapters, contributing to a tighter-knit SASE community. We held mixers with New York University and the City College of New York, going the extra mile to bring in Northeast Team and alumni participation. Accomplishing these in addition to SASE's sister chapter challenges with University of California San Diego and the University of Delaware further establishes our national involvement. Despite being a small school, our chapter has garnered significant recognition at both regional and national levels through participation in SASE initiatives and conferences, showcasing our dedication and impact within the organization.



We recommend prioritizing engagement and freshman retention by encouraging e-board members to step out of their comfort zones to foster meaningful connections with new members. A first meeting tradition, like our annual tradition of going to the pier, leaves a strong impression, helping students build stronger connections to SASE and its members. Embracing collaboration with a diverse range of organizations can help increase visibility and build a stronger community not only on campus, but within the regional and national community, as well."

ENGINEER YOUR POSSIBILITIES

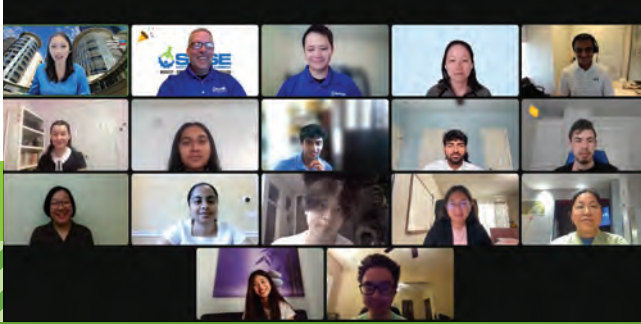


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SASE Scholarships



“ Being selected for this scholarship is an incredible blessing, lifting the financial burdens my family and I have been facing since moving to the U.S. The scholarship helped recognize the hustle I've put in, balancing multiple jobs and trying to help my family while pursuing my Electrical Engineering degree as a full-time student. I'm deeply thankful to Chevron and SASE for this opportunity, which not only eases my academic path but also motivates me to keep pushing for greatness in everything I do.” — **Supitcha Hanamornsate**, *University of North Texas*



“ As a 2024 RTX Scholarship Recipient, I am grateful for the financial relief it will bring! I found SASE and the opportunities I have now from the fact that I am able to afford housing on campus, which grants accessibility to events and resources. Moreover, the funds will ultimately support my contribution to the underrepresented field of women in engineering.”
— **Melody Nguyen**,
University of Houston

Congratulations to our 2024 SASE Scholarship Recipients

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Carol Geng

Texas A&M University

Logan Burnes

California State Polytechnic University Pomona

Lillian Sweet

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Anna Chen

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Justin Chen

University of Pennsylvania

Supitcha Hanamornsate

University of North Texas

Serenity Howery

University of Texas at Austin

Megan Jacob

University of California, Los Angeles

Jay Kannam

University of Texas at Austin

Joyce Ke

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Abby Liu

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Sam Lu

The University of Texas at Austin

Videet Mehta

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Keerthika Mohan

Stevens Institute of Technology

Julia Moy

Georgia Institute of Technology

Aarya Parmar

Texas A&M University

Danielle Quayyum

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Aaron Hill

Oregon Institute of Technology

Sidrah Schramm

Oregon State University

Shannon Wong

University of Calgary

Hongwoo Yoon

University of Calgary

Logan Burnes

California State Polytechnic University Pomona



“ This scholarship will go a long way in providing me some much-needed financial support so that I can focus on the important things as a student: Studying, preparing for a future career, and working on side projects. I'm incredibly grateful that I've been recognized for my efforts, and I'll be using this to propel myself forward and make an impact!”
— **Aaron Hill**, *Oregon Institute of Technology*

Visit www.saseconnect.org/scholarships for more information about our SASE Scholarships.

Spring 2025 Scholarship information coming in February 2025!

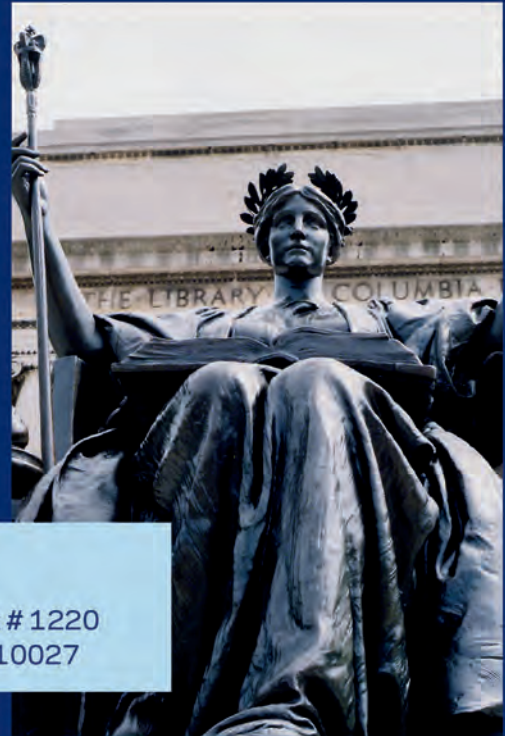


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2024 Regional Conference Highlights

WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE (WRC) – SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 17, 2024

Innovate Locally, Impact Globally

ABOUT THE THEME

San Jose State University (SJSU) lives in the center of Silicon Valley, and we wanted to demonstrate entrepreneurship's ingenuity and strength with our tagline "Innovate Locally, Impact Globally." As most start-ups have the potential to grow into powerhouse businesses, we wanted to empower our students with the mindset that they are capable of taking that first step. Our team fully believes that every student has something to offer, and with great minds thinking alike, groundbreaking impact will follow.

Our team made numerous efforts to incorporate entrepreneurship into the conference. We had a dedicated speaker panel for start-ups, inviting four individuals of diverse backgrounds with varying experiences in start-ups. We welcomed directors of incubators, direct employees from current up-and-coming start-ups, and entrepreneurs. We also hosted several workshops throughout the day that featured speakers who emphasized entrepreneurship in their respective agendas.



WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL

SJSU's experience with hosting conferences helped us structure a more flexible and encompassing WRC than in years past. With this frame of reference, we knew it was possible to give students insights into the wider range of experiences that Silicon Valley could offer. We wanted our conference to allow students to choose their own adventure: With our combined efforts, we garnered more than 40 guest speakers and hosted 22 workshops consisting of speaker panels, tech talks, professional development, and entertainment workshops, allowing students five to six options from which to choose at any time, more than previous conferences.

HOW WE NAVIGATED CHALLENGES

Funding our initial first steps for the conference was our biggest challenge. Due to our prospective package delays and the layoffs that impacted the tech industry, we weren't able to garner as many company sponsors as we would've liked. We tapped into our resources and were able to rally a lot of support from our college's engineering program for extra funding, as well as from SASE National, which directly connected us to our sponsors.

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

As the team spent months of preparation for this singular day, we couldn't have imagined the grand scale of the event we had been planning for. It was so encouraging to see all of our attendees from different schools connect with one another, bond with each other through food and personalized desserts, and bond with each other as day-of volunteers. While we were running around, making everything run behind the scenes, everyone was so supportive. Seeing it run as smoothly as a script was so rewarding.



LEVEL UP: Progress to Your Next Stage



ABOUT THE THEME

Post pandemic, our region returned to in-person conferences a bit later than the rest of the country, and we saw even more regional pride and enthusiasm for the Northeast Regional Conference (NERC) 2024. This year's NERC 2024 Planning Team was determined to develop a theme to play off the energy of this newfound generation of the Northeast. "Level Up: Progress to Your Next Stage" was more than just a theme to us; it was a mindset. We wanted our region to recognize that the quest for improvement is perpetual. NERC 2024 was our way of defeating the daunting perception of professionalism to focus on a more creative and collaborative scope to it. Whether our students were at the start of their collegiate journeys or segueing into their careers, NERC 2024 provided a range of professional and personal skill-building tracks for attendees to boost their stats and level up into the well-rounded champions of their lives.

NERC 2024 built off the theme of leveling up through different breakout sessions highlighting "different levels" in a SASEFam member's journey. Each session included three workshops that tackled topics in early career/ leadership skills, senior/post-graduation discussions, or personal development. Providing these three tracks allowed us to encompass more programming catered to a larger audience of attendees rather than focusing solely on one stage of professionalism building. Another way NERC 2024 played with this year's theme was by incorporating a lot of mini-games and challenges. Attendees got to "show off their stats" by earning nametag stickers for each NERC challenge completed, such as attending workshops or networking. Finally, NERC 2024 mimicked the aesthetics of retro video games

through our marketing, merchandise, and decor. From exclusive conference pins, a gamified philanthropy initiative, and custom 8-bit signage, attendees felt nostalgic and in awe of the thematic attention to detail.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL

With the video game theme, students found the conference programming incredibly approachable, engaging, and genuinely quite fun, even if they were learning about career skills. Additionally, offering content geared specifically toward upperclassmen and post-graduates made the older demographic "feel seen and could keep learning" since regional conferences have previously catered to younger SASEFam needs. Our new host city, Arlington, Virginia, was also selected based on previous year's feedback looking for more sponsors at the career fair. Utilizing government agencies and professional connections in the area, NERC 2024 was able to provide attendees with a wider range and number of sponsors. SASEFam students were thrilled to talk to new friendly faces from graduate schools and professionals in science, rather than only from engineering backgrounds, a common concern through the years.

HOW WE NAVIGATED CHALLENGES

Conference attendance was affected by chapter funding. While the previous year reacted positively to a trade-off of a further location for more sponsors, many chapters did not expect their campuses to have

resource shortages this year, thus halting their anticipated attendance. The Planning Team worked alongside the Northeast Regional Team, Gigi Elbert, Matt Diaz, and Liz Fujita, to assist chapters in financial planning in order to get representation from as many chapters as possible. Additionally, the teams utilized their networks by inviting many STEM students at local surrounding universities to attend. As context, the last time NERC was held this far south was in 2019 in Baltimore, Maryland, but NERC 2024 was the first to formally open doors to chapters and non-SASE schools in the South. This ended up being an amazing opportunity to expose new campuses to SASE and usher in the creation of new SASE chapters, and it provided the chance for more personal Northeast and South regional interactions!

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

The Planning Team was determined to find a speaker with an impressive background and a touch of personal flair to feel more synchronous with the conference's exciting energy. With the help of SASEPro and their vast network of passionate professionals with the generosity to give back to the SASE, we found Keynote Speaker Amy Yip. We knew Amy was great, but what no one expected was how much she would move our community. Amy's keynote brought tears to many attendees' eyes and was a great conversation starter for every attendee, even hours and days after NERC was over. What impacted students the most was not necessarily her skilled professionalism expertise, but rather the authenticity, hope, and compassion she brought to NERC. Through her keynote and workshop, Amy didn't simply highlight her successes, but she also showed SASEFam her range of "failures" and complicated journey between, a vulnerability many attendees did not expect from "such a talented professional." Attendees left NERC feeling inspired and driven, truly believing they saw parts of themselves in her story, and that if she could make it, so could they. At the end of the day, this is the goal of SASE — to connect generations and learn from each other so our community can thrive together.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE (SCRC) - TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MARCH 2, 2024

Soar to Success

ABOUT THE THEME

The theme “Soar to Success” for the South Central Regional Conference (SCRC) was chosen to inspire attendees and SASE chapters across the region for success. By fostering professional and social connections, the theme aimed to enhance attendees’ networking skills and professional development.

We provided many professional development and networking opportunities with companies like Texas Instruments, GE Vernova, Shell, and more, and the SCRC fostered connections across chapters by encouraging participants to “travel” through different experiences and perspectives through company workshops, panels, and networking events. Our panels presented a great opportunity to learn and connect and highlighted topics often missed in professional conferences.



WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL

Within the SCRC, we hosted 12 workshops, five of which were led by our sponsors and industry professionals, as well as a career fair involving companies like NASA, GE Vernova, Texas Instruments, and ACCMA. Our panels included a Graduate Research Panel, a Life after College Panel, and a Women in STEM Panel and Mixer that offered an important platform for leading women in the field to speak about their experience as a woman in engineering.

HOW WE NAVIGATED CHALLENGES

The intensive planning required, especially as much of it became concentrated closer to the event date, was particularly daunting. For many team members, this was their first experience organizing a large-scale conference, and the leadership team implemented rigorous time management and delegation strategies, keeping the team on track and focused.

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

Witnessing the multitude of connections being formed, both professional and social, was really special. Attendees were able to network with representatives from leading companies like NASA and Texas Instruments, as well as engage deeply with their peers from various chapters. Different SASE chapters across the region made plans to collaborate together and enjoy dinner together afterwards, and these moments of connection underscored the conference’s success in fostering a dynamic and supportive community that extended beyond the conference itself.



MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE (MWRC) - UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MARCH 30, 2024

Enriching Our Culture, Enhancing Our Future

ABOUT THE THEME

"Enriching our culture, enhancing our future" was chosen with the intention of building an inclusive environment at the conference where all attendees could create opportunities for our future and strengthen our community as SASE. We conveyed this theme through intentional events that fostered connection through our pre-conference mixer and networking session. Further, we highlighted our science majors through our Research Poster Symposium and made efforts to invite sponsors within the industry, such as Sandia Laboratories and Elanco Animal Health.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL

This conference had the highest number of attendees to ever come to the Midwest Regional Conference (MWRC). Our record-breaking attendance was possible due to our Midwest chapter's engagement and the planning team's outreach. It truly felt like a regional conference brought us to a whole new scale.

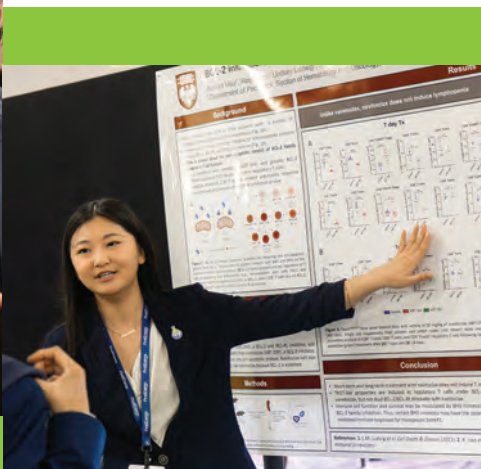


HOW WE NAVIGATED CHALLENGES

Securing our venue and adjusting capacity as we gained more attendees was challenging! But, we utilized our university resources and brought in help from administration where possible, and we focused on clear communication and the delegation of responsibilities throughout the planning team.

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

Workshops hosted by our national and collegiate SASE volunteers, with names such as "No Thoughts, Just Yap" on professional networking; "Building, Relating, Exploring, Adulthood, and Developing aka BREAD" on life after college; and "Fire up SASE," where our attendees got to learn more about our volunteers in an interactive interview with spicy ramen, won't soon be forgotten! We also brought all of our sponsors and attendees together during our closing ceremony, giving Conference Co-chair Robin Hwang the opportunity to give a comedic announcement for our raffle winners, complete with in-depth descriptions of each prize and winner interviews reminiscent of a game show host. He really wrapped up the conference with a fun and enthusiastic spirit!



Weaving Threads of Opportunities

ABOUT THE THEME

We took inspiration from the National Conference theme of “Creating connections that inspire” because we felt as a team, connections are a very important part of the professional world. Through many brainstorming sessions, and the love of crochet, we came up with the theme of “Weaving Threads of Opportunities,” with threads symbolizing connections and how they can open doors and opportunities.

To emphasize the importance of making connections, especially during one of the few times chapters from the region can see each other in person, we made sure conference attendees could meet with each other and chat. For example, we set aside time in between workshops, created an open and central place to eat lunch, and organized a dedicated networking session. Attendees also had the chance to talk with recruiters during workshop sessions and the career fair, further unlocking opportunities in their future.

WHAT MADE IT SPECIAL

From member feedback, we learned that many members see the Southeast Regional Conference (SERC) not only as a professional opportunity, but also as an opportunity to meet other SASE members from different chapters. Thus, we ensured that there were events to facilitate networking between members from different chapters. The standout event was networking bingo — a dedicated time after lunch for attendees to meet each other where attendees completed a selfie bingo card by finding one person who could qualify for a bingo square, took a selfie with that person, and submitted it, producing some cool photos!



HOW WE NAVIGATED CHALLENGES

Our short timeline meant the whole process of conference planning had to be expedited — ranging from finding the committee leads and its members to contacting sponsors to contacting the right people for the venue. The short timeline also proved challenging when trying to engage sponsors, as many were closing their books for the quarter and thus were not able to sponsor. At first, we saw these issues as roadblocks that we could not pass but later decided to just plan around it by minimizing the cost of the conference, especially in the initial planning stage. It was not until the end that we were able to get a lot of funding and allocate more funds to the conference.

A MEMORABLE MOMENT

If you ask our attendees, we bet many would say the Charmin Bear that P&G brought during the career fair. He was the star of the conference. For the team, however, we believe that seeing all of our hard work come together — such as seeing the workshops and networking session run smoothly, seeing the merch poster board and the retractable sign-in person, and seeing people enjoy the conference throughout the day — was really rewarding. It’s hard to believe that we were able to do so much in such little time!



A background image showing several workers in white hard hats and dark jackets reviewing documents on a construction site. The workers are wearing "pepco holdings" and "EXELON COMPANY" branded clothing. The scene is set outdoors with a chain-link fence and trees in the background.

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Energy at its best

IT Committee Hackathon

SASEhack is an annual hackathon event that recognizes the need for computer science and information technology (CS/IT) solutions. It provides collegiate students of all skill levels the opportunity to form cross-disciplinary teams to collaborate and create innovative solutions for real-world challenges.

SASEhack welcomes everyone — from the slightly curious to the tech wizards — and participants have created their own successes by handling scenarios like Capture the Flag, analyzing public data, and building apps. The first SASEhack started with 3D printers and medical instrumentation kits— like heart monitors — and processing that information and displaying it through code.

Overall, SASEhack isn't just about winning prizes: Each challenge provides plenty of opportunities for students to develop new



skills and discover ways to collaborate with others. Students can explore creative solutions and gain insight with experts/mentors and new technologies. Students can exercise presentation skills, which they can then directly reapply to their coursework or senior design projects.

This seventh annual SASEhack will feature online and in-person activities. Leading up to the National Convention, we will give students learning opportunities to enhance their

hackathon experience and teamwork skills from the comfort of their homes. At the start of the National Convention, participants will showcase their presentations for an in-person judging event on October 10, 2024. Awards and recognition await the top teams!

Please visit the SASE convention website at convention.saseconnect.org for more information about SASEhack. We look forward to celebrating the achievements of these innovators with you this fall!

SAVE THE DATE

2025 Regional Conference

Midwest Regional Conference at
Purdue University

Northeast Regional Conference
in Newark, NJ

Southeast Regional Conference at
the University of South Florida

Southcentral Regional Conference
at the University of Texas at Austin

West Regional Conference
at Colorado School of Mines



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invent.ge/career





PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Explore this year's programming of continuous growth and inspiration from our dynamic mix of in-person and virtual programs, meticulously curated to empower Asian ERGs and professionals of diverse backgrounds at every skill level. Join us in celebrating the remarkable achievements of Asian STEM professionals, as we honor their leadership, excellence, and military service accomplishments through our prestigious awards.





2024 Leadership Awards

The SASE Leadership Awards recognize exemplary leadership and volunteerism, and celebrate technical accomplishments and advancements in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. Through these awards, SASE honors organizations and individuals who have made impactful contributions to the global business world, academia, and their local communities.

SASE Organization Of The Year (Company)



COLLINS AEROSPACE | PRATT & WHITNEY | RAYTHEON

This award recognizes a private-sector company that has demonstrated significant contributions to the scientific and/or engineering professions, as well as a long-standing commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace. In the past year, this company has devoted outstanding support, advocacy, and services to address the development and advancement of diversity with a focus on the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

RTX has been a strong supporter of SASE since 2014. In 2024, RTX stepped up as one of our co-lead sponsors for the Collegiate National Convention and Career Fair. RTX ASPIRES has also been heavily involved in SASE's professional programming in 2024,

from our ERG Network meetings to our training cohort programs to our Women's Leadership Conference. The company has also pre-purchased more than 50 professional registrations to this year's Professional National Convention.

RTX

SASE Organization Of The Year (Government)



This award recognizes a public-sector, academic, or nonprofit organization that has demonstrated significant contributions to the scientific and/or engineering professions, as well as a long-standing commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace. In the past year, this organization has devoted outstanding support, advocacy, and services to address the development and advancement of diversity with a focus on the AAPI community.

Since 2012, MIT Lincoln Laboratory has continued to support SASE's mission, students, and professionals in an exemplary fashion. The organization anticipates furthering its efforts in advancing science, engineering, and technology. With the backing

of the Pan-Asian Laboratory Staff employee resource group, the Human Resources Department, and the broader Laboratory community, the organization is well-positioned to uphold its enduring dedication to cultural diversity and workplace inclusion.

MIT Lincoln Laboratory



Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

SASE Distinguished Career Award



Robert Narumi
Principal Engineering Fellow,
RTX

This award recognizes seasoned professionals with more than 25 years of professional experience who hold or have held executive-level management positions. Award recipients have made significant contributions to the growth and advancement of engineering, science, or technology. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.

Robert Narumi is a principal engineering fellow at Raytheon, an RTX Business. Over his 40-year distinguished career, Robert has been a leader, pioneer, collaborator, advocate, researcher, technical contributor, subject matter expert, and mentor in the development of Radio Frequency (RF) and first-generation digital integrated circuits; wide-band, multi-band, multi-mode digital software radio; Global Positioning System (GPS); hardware cybersecurity; and microelectronics trust and assurance. He brings a unique technical

experience and knowledge of radar and communications systems engineering, antenna, RF, digital signal processing, integrated circuit design, and hardware security to accompany his ability to propose, develop, and advance new concepts for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Department of Defense, and other customers. Robert earned a Master of Science and a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California and holds four patents and multiple trade secrets.

SASE Executive Of The Year



Kamal Narang
Senior Vice President,
Federal Health,
General Dynamics
Information Technology
(GDIT)

This award recognizes seasoned professionals in executive-level management positions with more than 10 years of professional experience in their fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering and science through their engagement and contributions to SASE and/or the AAPI community. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.

Kamal Narang is senior vice president of Federal Health at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT), where he manages a \$1 billion organization with over 3,000 professionals.

With 30 years of experience in the federal health IT industry, Kamal has held various senior leadership roles within GDIT. Prior to his current role, he led the Federal Health Group for over 12 years at CSRA and SRA, now part of GDIT.

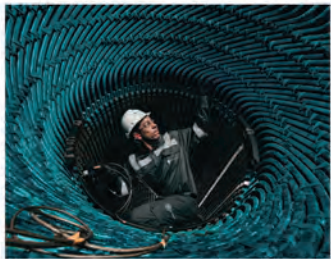
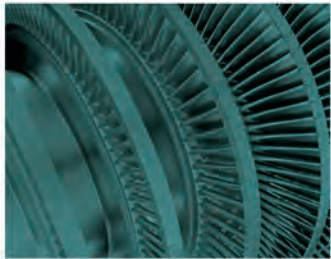
Kamal has been recognized as a FCW Federal 100 winner in 2023; WashingtonExec Top Health Care Execs to Watch in 2022;

FedHealth IT 100 Hall of Fame winner in 2022; and Minority Business Leader Award from the Washington Business Journal in 2020. He serves as a board member of the Professional Services Council (PSC) and the Children's Inn at NIH, where he volunteers regularly. He previously served as chair of the WashingtonExec Healthcare Council.

Kamal earned a bachelor's degree in physics and computer science from the University of Mumbai, a master's degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University, and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Maryland.



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SASE Emerging Leader Of The Year



Dr. Sophie Kim
Associate Research Scientist,
Dow

This award recognizes young professionals who graduated less than five years ago. Award recipients are already succeeding in their respective professions through significant and measurable accomplishments, have demonstrated the qualities of a leader, and are highly regarded within their organizations and communities. They are also active SASE Professional members or active leaders in the AAPI community.

Dr. Sophie Kim, an associate research scientist at Dow, is a dynamic leader in the intersecting fields of data science and chemical engineering. With a rich background spanning industry and academia, Sophie consistently showcases exceptional leadership skills and drives transformative digital projects that leverage cutting-edge technologies to tackle complex challenges.

Since joining Dow in February 2021, Sophie holds the distinction of being the first data scientist within Dow Coating Materials. In this role, she has made significant strides in advancing AI capabilities, contributing to a wide array of projects ranging from Generative AI to machine learning modeling and data-driven market intelligence solutions. Collaborating closely with technical and

marketing teams, Sophie excels in delivering efficient, data-driven solutions and demonstrating strong skills in stakeholder management and communication. Her work led to the development of 10+ AI solutions, 14 internal reports, and six patent applications.

Sophie's impact extends beyond Dow. As the Young Professional Industry Liaison for the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Computing & Systems Technology Division, she enhances engagement and networking opportunities for other chemical engineers working in the computing space. Additionally, she lends her expertise as a technical reviewer and collaborator on the International Scientific Committee for the Foundations of Computer-Aided Process Design conference.

SASE Engineer/Scientist Of The Year (Company)



Dr. Madhusudan Raghavan
Senior Technical Fellow
and Lab Group Manager,
Battery & System
Architecture Group,
General Motors

This award recognizes professionals in the private sector who have made significant and measurable contributions within their engineering or science fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering or science, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.

Madhu Raghavan is currently a senior technical fellow and lab group manager at the General Motors (GM) Research & Development (R&D) Center. He leads the Battery and System Architecture Group in the Energy and Propulsion Systems Research Lab. Madhu has been with GM R&D for 35 years and works in the area of electrified propulsion systems, with projects on 1500V systems, megawatt battery charging, mixed chemistry battery packs, sodium and vanadium cell-based battery modules, and novel battery pack architectures.

Madhu began his career at GM R&D as a senior researcher in 1989 and has steadily risen through the technical ranks to his current role of a Senior Technical Fellow. In 2001, Madhu also received a master of

business administration (MBA) from the Ross School of Business, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Madhu's research work has touched all aspects of automotive propulsion systems, with an emphasis on electrification and "clean tech."

As a service to the international mechanisms/mechatronics technical community, Madhu has hosted multiple international workshops on hybrid and plug-in-hybrid electric vehicles in Australia, Russia, and China, when he served as the chair of the Transportation Machinery Technical Committee of IFToMM from 2006-2013. Madhu has also participated in two Frontiers of Engineering conferences, organized by the U.S. National Academy of Engineering. Additionally, Madhu is a Fellow of ASME and SAE.

SASE Engineer/Scientist Of The Year (Government)



Dr. Dalvir K. Hopkins
Supervisory Senior General
Engineer/Section Chief,
Air Force Research
Laboratory

Dr. Dalvir K. Hopkins is the section chief for the Electrical Materials Evaluation & Rapid Characterization Section at Materials and Manufacturing Directorate of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. She provides leadership

This award recognizes professionals in a public-sector, academic, or nonprofit organization who have made significant and measurable contributions within their fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering or science, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.

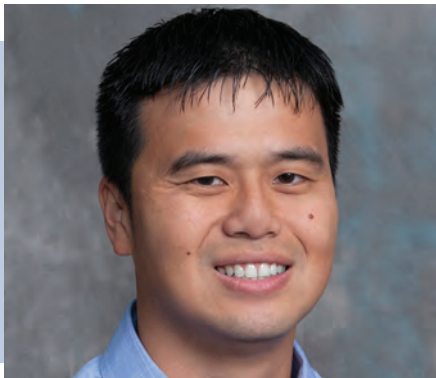
for about 25 personnel and supports the Rapid Response/Failure Analysis laboratory capability, to provide research support to high-priority, time-urgent Air Force and Department of Defense materials and processing (M&P) problems.

She received a bachelor's degree in science and mathematics from Punjab University, India. As a first-generation immigrant, she moved to the United States in 2004 and received a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science, and a Doctorate degree in electrical engineering from Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. Her impressive credentials include the authorship of more than 25 peer-reviewed conference and journal publications and a comprehensive graduate-level textbook on power converters modeling and simulation.

Dr. Hopkins is also the author of more than 30 authoritative and highly technical reports disseminating failure modalities, aircraft mishap investigations, electrical failure analysis, reverse engineering, electrical characterization of components, and lessons learned to a wide range of Department of Air Force and industry customers.

Dr. Hopkins is the founder and president of the first Asian American Resource Group within the United States Air Force Research Laboratory. She is also a member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Council in her organization. Dr. Hopkins and her team have organized, hosted, and participated in multiple events promoting (AAPI) history, culture, language, tradition, and achievement, garnering hundreds of participants from her community.

SASE Information Technologist Of The Year



Justin Lo
AI Technical Manager,
Chevron

Justin Lo is an IT leader at Chevron with a diverse set of experiences from academia to industry in the data science and analytics space. After completing his undergraduate studies, Justin pursued a career in academia

This award recognizes professionals in information technology who have made significant and measurable contributions within the field. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of information technology, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.

with the goal of becoming a professor as he enjoyed teaching others and learning new things. His research was in biomedical optics, focusing on modeling photon light paths through tissue and developing classification algorithms for spectroscopic imaging of epithelial pre-cancers.

In his Chevron career, Justin helped build the data science organization from the ground up, and he is now head of a large, globally distributed data science and analytics organization that has generated hundreds of millions of dollars in business value per year. As a senior IT leader at Chevron, he also has a broad knowledge base that extends beyond data science, as he works with software

and data engineers across the analytics solution landscape from development to operations, running and maintaining support for Chevron business units.

Justin has remained committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in his workplace and beyond. As an Asian immigrant, he understands the importance of creating an inclusive environment and value diversity and celebrates the unique perspectives and experiences of each individual. In addition to the business successes that he has contributed to, the employees within his organization have noted the culture and people as the primary reason for their continued work at Chevron.

SASE Advocate Award



Elissa Lee
Executive Director –
Commercial Rotorcraft
Programs,
GE Aerospace

This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion and the advancement of AAPI professionals. These individuals are valued mentors and sponsors of AAPI professionals and are champions of success for our SASE members.

Elissa is the executive director responsible for GE Aerospace's commercial rotorcraft engine programs. In this role, Elissa has responsibility for the strategy, operations, and customer fleet of the commercial engine portfolio for the rotorcraft market. She manages a team to ensure the safety, quality, delivery, cost, and compliance for production engines, components, and services, as well as managing new product development and certification programs, advanced technology programs, and the product line growth strategy in partnership with commercial airframer partners. In her current role, Elissa also participates on the boards of the Vertical Flight Society East New England chapter, Good Neighbor Fund of River Works, and Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. She is a founding board member of Service Scholars of Massachusetts.

Elissa has over 25 years of experience in GE Aerospace with various leadership roles in engineering and supply chain across multiple sites, including three years as a site leader in Regensburg, Germany, where she was charged with transforming the facility from a small innovation site to a multi-shift production manufacturing facility.

Throughout her career, Elissa has led numerous organizations dedicated to advocacy of diverse talent and inclusive leadership, including her work as GE recruiting leader for Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), leadership with GE Aerospace's Employee Resource Groups' Asian Pacific and Allies & Friends (APAF), Women's Network, and as executive sponsor for the Boston Hub APAF and Pride Alliance.



Arun Mukherjee
Associate Director,
Program Management,
RTX

Arun Mukherjee is the associate director for International Programs at Raytheon Saudi Arabia, a wholly owned subsidiary of RTX. In his current role, he is responsible for execution of Saudi Industrial Participation programs and growing the program leadership talent pool at Raytheon Saudi Arabia to enable future growth for the business in the Middle East Region.

Arun has been an advocate for the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) employees and the API employee resource groups (ERG) at Raytheon for the past 21 years. Arun served as the Raytheon Asian Pacific Association (RAPA) North Texas regional vice president of operations from 2002 to 2005 and the regional president from 2005 to 2009. He was the RAPA Tucson vice president of operations from 2009 to 2013 and the RAPA global vice president of operations from 2020 to April 2022. Arun currently serves as the co-chair for the RTX Asian Pacific Islander Resource Group (RTX ASPIRES). He was instrumental in synergizing the Asian ERGs across RTX from three separate businesses: Raytheon, Pratt & Whitney, and Collins Aerospace over the past three years.

As an ERG leader, Arun has been involved in several key initiatives, one of which was going to Washington, D.C., on behalf of RTX and speaking to local elected officials in the U.S. House and Senate to further the causes that are important to the API community. Arun was a 2021 Corporate Achievement Award Honoree by OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, the Asian advocacy group, for advocating against Asian Hate for the API community at RTX. Arun has also promoted the advancement of the API professionals at RTX as a development team member, mentor, and advocate for the Skills Enhancement and Employee Development (SEED) program, a leadership program which aims to enhance the skills of API individual contributors and managers to advance them into higher leadership roles at RTX, as well as create a pipeline of API leaders across the enterprise. Arun engaged with executive and senior leadership at Raytheon and RTX to enable success of the SEED program.

SASE Service Impact Awards



Robert Makalika Kaaa
Principal Tax Accountant,
RTX

This award recognizes individuals who have made significant and measurable contributions to their communities through volunteerism. These individuals exemplify inspirational leadership and initiative through accomplishments such as teaching, coaching, organizing, serving on boards and committees, and other leadership roles. Their volunteer work has made a positive impact on the AAPI community.

Robert Makalika Kaaa is a principal tax specialist at RTX in the Corporate Tax Department – Indirect Taxes – Sales/Use. His major responsibilities include managing assigned state sales/use tax audits/refunds; special projects including projects related to utility and software exemptions; and providing tax guidance and research to the business units. He provides the Tax Department's taxability position on asset acquisitions, particularly for Raytheon Missiles. He also provides guidance to the programs regarding contract setup and applicable state guidelines.

Rob has long been an active supporter of RTX ASPIRES (Asian Pacific Islander Resource Group), formerly RAPA (Raytheon Asian Pacific Association), the company's API employee resource group. He was recognized in 2022 with the Hall of Fame award by RTX ASPIRES North Texas and again in 2023 with

the API Heritage Month Community Service Achievement award by RTX ASPIRES. He previously served as the finance chair for RAPA North Texas and currently serves as an advisor sharing the history of RTX API efforts in North Texas. His greatest satisfaction has been when he sees those he has mentored flourish in their personal and professional careers. He has always encouraged those with leadership aspirations to grow and develop their skills within RTX ASPIRES.

As an active volunteer in his community, Rob believes it important to be visible, particularly to API youth and young professionals. The benefits of service, the commitment of time, and leadership are emphasized, encouraged, and promoted. Although he focuses on the API community, Rob recognizes that his efforts benefit all the diversity of his community and its inclusiveness.



David K. Lee
Project Manager,
Program Integration,
Northrop Grumman
Corporation

David K. Lee is the project manager for Northrop Grumman Corporation, Space Systems Sector, Strategic Space Systems Division. He is responsible for the Configuration and Data Management support to various major programs and projects. He is an engineering professional with extensive experience in configuration and data management, as well as project management. He is a key liaison between program office, business management, global supply chain, systems engineering, and technical teams to integrate and understand contract requirements and meet data deliverables.


David is also the advisor for the Asian Pacific Professional Network Enterprise Employee Resource Group at Northrop Grumman. He leads the group by organizing and supporting professional development, management development, leadership development, mentoring programs, cultural awareness, community involvement, and networking events. He created the South Bay Asian American Network by bringing together Asian Pacific American affinity groups from the local aerospace and defense companies. David

holds various executive board member and officer positions with non-profit organizations supporting the increase in the diversity leadership of Asian Pacific Americans. He was the award recipient of the first Asian Pacific American Achievement Award, the Community Advocate of the Year, and the Diversity and Inclusion Top Performance Individual Performer Award.

David has a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering with a specialty in industrial engineering and engineering management from California State University, Northridge. He earned his Government Contract Management designation from University of California, Los Angeles. He completed the Elevate Leadership Certificate Program from University of California, San Diego, and the Engineering Leadership and Management Program from University of Southern California. He is also a Certified Configuration and Data Manager, National Defense Industrial Association, and a Certified International Configuration Manager, Configuration Management Training Foundation.



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2024 Achievement Awards

Career Achievements (22+)

Saira Brenner
HII

Quan Bui
Tenable

Dr. Jianping Chen
Chevron

Dr. Yurong Chen
Bayer Crop Science

Nishchey Chhabra
GE Verona

Dr. Hyeon-Je Cho
Corteva AgriScience

Dr. Kristin Cody
Naval Nuclear
Laboratory

Dinakar Deshmukh
GE Aerospace

Khuong Dinh
MITRE

Mythien Dunlap
Naval Nuclear
Laboratory

Raymond Espiritu
Johns Hopkins Applied
Physics Laboratory

Jerry Fan
Burns & McDonnell

Syed Fuad
Leidos

Abhiman Hande
RTX

Gaurang (Dan) Hirpara
Leidos

Chung Hoang
United States Air Force

Steve Hsieh
Lockheed Martin

Dr. Zhenning Hu
The Boeing Company

Dr. Mridula (Babli) Kapur
Dow

Shan Pin Koh
Dow

Santhi Kolli
Southwire

Wei Liang
Leidos

Lucy Yi Liu
Carrier

Prateek Mishra
General Motors

Dr. Tony Ng
Leidos

Dr. Thao Nguyen
RTX

Tho Nguyen
GE Vernova

Dr. Rajen Patel
Dow

Rajesh Patwari
SHELL

Dr. Nandakumar Ramanujam
HII

Renee Rice
Lockheed Martin

Tuyet-Hanh Schnell
Lockheed Martin

Jayesh Shanbhag
GE Aerospace

Dr. Kishora Shetty
The Boeing Company

Dr. Mingfeng Shi
General Motors

Ellen Shimada
Northrop Grumman
Corporation

Dr. Allen Shum
Naval Information
Warfare Center Pacific

Phil Tran
Daimler Truck North
America

Quyen Tran
Leidos

Tri Tran
BAE Systems, Inc

Augustine Vu
Air Force Research
Laboratory

Dr. Hye-Kyung Timken
Chevron

Selvi Vijayam
Dow

Dr. Haiyou Wang
Honeywell

Dr. Xinxin Wang
Booz Allen

Yakong Wong
HII

Dr. Dongmei Ye
Sandia National
Laboratories

Captain Chimi Zacot
Naval Nuclear
Laboratory

Yongwu Zhao
Leidos

Dr. Ling Zhou
Honeywell

Lian Zhu
Tenable

Professional Achievements (10+)

Dr. Aqeel Ahmad
Bayer Crop Science

Kala Bhatt
BASF CORP

Raashi Binrajka
GDIT

Carrie Chen
The Aerospace
Corporation

Dr. Yuguang Chen
Chevron

Satish Chinari
Southwire

Boon Keat Chui
Textron

Dawn Cisneros
Leidos

Hideyoshi (Yoshi) Delgado
RTX

Dr. Karna Desai
Booz Allen

Tien Diep
Stanley Black & Decker

Mariam L. Florentine
The Aerospace
Corporation

Dr. Budi Gunawan
Sandia National
Laboratories

Dr. Jihui Guo
Dow

Wasana Lakmali Gupta
Dow

Dr. Kun He
Bayer Crop Science

Ratanak Heng
Exelon

Zhangjun (Jack) Hu
Dow

Kevin Jayasinghe
Chemours

Ling Jiao
Chevron

Shandip KC
Eaton

Padma Koutha
Carrier

Peter Law
Lockheed Martin

Juan Li
Textron

James Ling
Honeywell

Leo Luckose
Burns & McDonnell

Jack Liu
Eaton

Dr. Huping Luo
Chevron

Charmaine Martinez
Lockheed Martin

Byung-Young Min
Lockheed Martin

Rico Moneza
Northrop Grumman
Corporation

Duy Nguyen
Blue Origin

Kathlean O'Connor
GDIT

Nainesh Patel
Lockheed Martin

Dr. Sheng Peng
Chemours

Dr. Wellesley Periera
Air Force Research
Laboratory

Vivek Peraser
bp

David Renfree
Leidos

Sri Sentharamaikannan
Southwire

Jae Shim
Southwire

Dr. Sandhya Sundar Ram
SHELL

Dr. Abhiman Saraswathi
Corteva AgriScience

Dr. Xuehui Sun
Chemours

Dr. Auychai Suvanujasiri
BAE Systems, Inc

Dr. Stacy Teng
Johns Hopkins Applied
Physics Laboratory

Tam To
The Boeing Company

David Tran
L3Harris

Peijung Tsai
L3Harris

Amy Wang
Wabtec

Dr. Liying Wang
BASF CORP

Dr. Yanfei Wang
Bayer Crop Science

Kory Williams
L3Harris

Vicki Wu
The Boeing Company

Leon Xie
GE Aerospace

Dr. Qi Yao
L3Harris

Everly Yeo
Naval Information
Warfare Center Pacific

Dr. Huang Zeng
bp

Dr. Bi-Zeng Zhan
Chevron

Dr. Weijun Zhou
Dow

**Promising
Professional
(2-10 yrs)**

Dhruv L. Bohra
The Aerospace
Corporation

Matina Chanthavongsay
L3Harris

Ummyia Chaudhary
United States Air Force

Jaron Chen
The Aerospace Corporation

Shannen Chowdhury
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Gwynelle Condino
Textron

Dr. Eugene Dao
Air Force Research Laboratory

Simone Fermin
RTX

Jasmin Goh
RTX

Grace Hahn
Booz Allen

Tanya Halloran
Exelon

Jimmy Hung
Leidos

Dimitri Kumarage
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Kimberly Liang
RTX

Cynthia Liu
BAE Systems, Inc.

Dr. Grace Liu
Bayer Crop Science

Anthony Lopez
MITRE

Venkatvarun Madarapu
Wabtec

Khyati Mahavadia
Textron

Kianni Martinez
Air Force Research Laboratory

Kelly McGuire
The Boeing Company

Jethro Medina
Chemours

Anna Munslow
The Aerospace Corporation

Shalaka Nayak
General Motors

Lan Nguyen
BAE Systems, Inc

Tri Nguyen
Hill

Shweta Ojha
GE Vernova

Jonathan Ou-Young
Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific

Abhishek Sanjay Pathak
Textron

Sapna Rao
Lockheed Martin

Dr. Zhe Ren
Honeywell

Diane Salmon
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Karan Shah
Carrier

Ernest C. So
Naval Information Warfare Center Pacific

Dr. Hudson Takano
Corteva AgriScience

Dr. Tobi Tang
BASF CORP

Jonas Tjahjadi
MITRE

Stanley Tong
General Motors

Chloe Tran
Procter & Gamble

Jenny Vu
Blue Origin

Jiehao Wang
Chevron

Alex Wong
BAE Systems, Inc

Michael Wong
Leidos

Tony Wong
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Avinash Yadav
Dow

Jessica Yeh
Daimler Truck North America

Alice Zhang
GE Aerospace

Michelle Zhang
The Boeing Company

Eric Zhao
GE Vernova

Dr. Xiaowei Zhou
Chemours

Lisa Zhu
Burns & McDonnell

Jawad Zureigat
Wabtec

Dr. Zhenzhen Wang
Chevron

ERG Leadership Achievement

Nadia Chaidir
Corteva AgriScience

Edward Chao
Exelon

Taylor Cheung
RTX

Helen De La Rosa
bp

Bridgit Dhomnic
BASF CORP

Chris Goodman
Tenable

Nileshpuri Goswami
GE Vernova

Charise Hashiba-Chan
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Abhiram Iyengar
General Motors

Heidi Ji
BASF CORP

Vivian Kristofferson
MITRE

Shamala Littlefield
Lockheed Martin

Annie Ly
Honeywell

Lisa Ly
RTX

Tannaz Machhi
bp

Emmylou Mosley
Hill

Joshua Nguyen
SHELL

Mimi Nguyen
The Boeing Company

Se Oh
Southwire

Michelle Paik
GE Aerospace

Meha Parashar
Dow

Amit Singh
Chevron

Janet Tsai
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Parmesh Verma
Carrier

Sunitha Vijay
GE Vernova

Meagan Weisgerber
Naval Nuclear Laboratory

Madeline Wren
BAE Systems, Inc

Kan Yang
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Executive Achievements

Ven Feng
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Rebecca Haug
Booz Allen

Yan Jin
Eaton

Andy Johnson
Daimler Truck North America

Dr. Jason Kalirai
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

Kanthy Kapila
The Boeing Company

Sagar Khire
Carrier

Satheeshkumar Kumarasingam
RTX

Jerry Lambert
Lockheed Martin

Jennifer Matsumura
Exelon

Preet Nair
Eaton

Dev Rastogi
AECOM

Dr. Ravi Ravichandran
BAE Systems, Inc

Falguni Singh
GDIT

Anita Stone
RTX

Sumesh Sundaeswaran
GDIT

Smitha Upadya
GE Aerospace

Advocate Achievements

Aneasha Buragohain
GE Vernova

Kelly Busquets
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Paul Cavanaugh
The Boeing Company

Denise Hall
SHELL

Meghan Jones
bp

Qi Ma
AECOM

Muta Mashack
Tenable

Letita Nal
Eaton

Uttam Narasimhan
GE Vernova

Prateek Nepal
AECOM

Eugene Terwilliger
Naval Nuclear Laboratory

Mimi Vargas-Lao
Chevron

Austin Wang
MITRE

Service Impact Achievements

Asha Belarski
GE Aerospace

Angie Chen
Daimler Truck North America

Prashant Gawde
GE Vernova

Amit Godbole
GE Aerospace

Dr. Joanne Hill-Kittle
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Ernest Hui
SHELL

Alisha Khanal
AECOM

Saurabh Mishra
Daimler Truck North America

Jaclyn Poon
The Boeing Company

Charity Quijano
Booz Allen

Nathan Tat
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Karen Thompson
Corteva AgriScience

Sophie Xu
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2024 SASEsalutes Awards

2024 SASEsalutes Distinguished Career Service Award

ANTONIO M. TAGUBA Major General, U.S. Army Retired



Major General Antonio (Tony) Taguba retired on January 1, 2007, having served 34 years on Active Duty.

He is President, TDLS Consulting, LLC, which provides business consulting services to small business and nonprofit organizations. He is Chairman, Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit national, all volunteer, charitable, educational organization committed to mentoring and leadership development of military and civilian leaders.

He also serves as Chairman, Filipino Veterans Education and Recognition Project, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit, charitable, educational organization advocating and supporting the Filipino and American Veterans of World War II.

He also served as AARP Community Ambassador for Military and Family Caregiving in 2014-2020.

He was a former Vice President, Army Services, SERCO Inc., a global services company based in North America and Great Britain from 2007-2009.

Born in Manila, Philippines, on October 31, 1950, Major General Taguba was

commissioned as an Armor Officer and distinguished military graduate from Idaho State University in May 1972. He has served in numerous command and staff positions from infantry platoon to General officer level. His service tours included assignments in the United States, South Korea, Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom, he served as Deputy Commanding General for Support, Coalition Forces Land Component Command/Army Central Command/Third U.S. Army, forward deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in 2003-2004. He was responsible for logistical support services to U.S. and Coalition Forces totaling over 150,000 troops conducting combat operations. His duty included support of U.S. troops and coordination of host nation support from the Government of Kuwait and security/training support in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Qatar. Prior to his deployment, he served as Acting Director of Army Staff, Department of the Army, Pentagon.

Upon his redeployment, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon. He later served as Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Reserve Command on his last assignment on active duty.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Distinguished Service Medal (two awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (six awards), Army Commendation Medal (three awards), Army Achievement Medal (two awards), Office of Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, and Army Staff Identification Badge.

He received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of San Francisco on May 17, 2008.

Major General Taguba graduated from Idaho State University with a BA degree in History; Webster University with a MA degree in Public Administration; Salve Regina University with a MA degree in International Relations; and U.S. College of Naval Command and Staff with MA degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and U.S. Army War College.

He and wife of 43 years, Debra, have two adult children – Lindsay T. Keys and LTC Sean T. Taguba, U.S. Army. They have four granddaughters.



Career Services

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The Aerospace Corporation

Ellis Chang
MITRE

Johnnie H. Cooper
The Aerospace Corporation

Beaver Huh
RTX

Dr. Anne Lee
RTX

Timothy Lee
Lockheed Martin

Anel "Tito" Montes
RTX

Wesley Norris
Honeywell

John Pang
MITRE

Andrew Reeves
BAE Systems, Inc

Erwin Sabile
Booz Allen

Anthony Walters
RTX

Harry Ryan Wong
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Professional Service

Clena Marie Abuan
BP

Robert Ashby
RTX

Hyun Chang
Northrop Grumman Corporation

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MITRE

Willie Haw
The Aerospace Corporation

Ankur Kumar
Honeywell

Peter Joshua Kamakana Lee
United States Air Force

Seungchan Lee
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Jonathon L'heureux
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Major Phillip Lopez
Air Force Research Laboratory

Francis Montejo
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Ted Yang
Procter & Gamble

Feng Zhang
RTX



Bloom with Brilliance

SASE Pro Women's Leadership Conference (WLC)

by Megan Weaver

On Friday, April 26, 2024, SASE Pro hosted its fourth annual Women's Leadership Virtual Conference, titled "Bloom with Brilliance," with sponsorship by Dow. This highly anticipated event attracted close to 400 participants from over 45 organizations, showcasing the growing commitment to empowering Asian women leaders in science and engineering.

The conference featured three focused tracks and nine engaging workshops designed to foster leadership development, enhance professional skills, and provide invaluable networking opportunities for women. Participants from diverse backgrounds united to share insights, learn from industry experts, and inspire one another on their

leadership journeys. Inspiring keynote addresses were delivered by two renowned women leaders: Catherine McCully, chief information security officer at Procter & Gamble, and Sarah-SoonLing Blackburn, an educator, speaker, author, and Professional Learning Facilitator. Their powerful messages underscored the importance of resilience,

Here are just a few of the many comments SASE Pro received about the conference



Hearing about other Asian women professionals and their personal life stories during the conference was fascinating. I related to the challenges faced at the workplace and learned from others' experiences."

— Joanne Lock, The Chemours Company

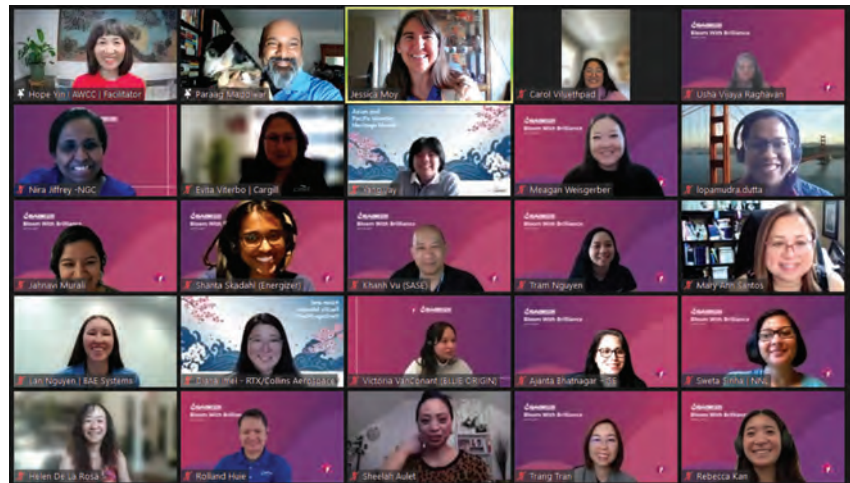


SASE gave me a sense of belonging and support within a community that shares my cultural background, where I can be myself and truly felt a genuine connection with others."

— Redela Culaton-Heraldo, Thermo Fisher Scientific



innovation, and continuous growth in leadership roles. The conference received overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, who praised the high-quality content of the workshops, the inspirational keynote speeches, and the valuable networking opportunities. The “Bloom with Brilliance” conference exemplifies the collective effort to nurture and celebrate women’s leadership in science and engineering, paving the way for future generations of women to thrive and excel in these vital fields.



I am utterly transformed by this experience. This was an incredibly empowering event that makes me so grateful for the holistic me!”

— Jeleen Sindall, VMD, Cisco





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SASE Asian Women in Tech (AWiT) Conference

by Jessica Moy

On Thursday, June 13, 2024, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) held its inaugural Asian Women in Tech (AWiT) Conference at Cisco Headquarters in San Jose. With close to 200 registrants at this pilot event and strong support from Cisco – as well as representation from Google, Apple, and ServiceNow – it is evident that this is a much-needed event in the community.

Presenters from Asian Women Coaching Collective (AWCC), along with two additional speakers, were brought in to facilitate a total of six workshops and help lead lunch focus circles. Minjae Ormes (Vice President of Marketing, Global Brand & Consumer at LinkedIn) and Jennifer Yokoyama (Senior

Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Legal innovation and Strategy at Cisco) were the keynotes, and Nancy Cam-Winget (the only female Fellow at Cisco) and Caroline Kim (Program Management Director at Google) sat on the executive panel. The testimonials from many SASE Pro AWiT attendees were glowing!



This event was life changing! I have never been in a room full of Asian women like this, and I feel extremely inspired and special that there are people who look like me and have struggles like me.”

– Cisco employee



I went into this event with an open mind, and I was amazed at how many practical tools and techniques I was able to take away from this event. It was so well organized, and the speaker sessions were insightful while the keynotes were inspiring. I look forward to returning next year.”

– ServiceNow employee



The idea for AWiT started back in 2015, when the current CEO of SASE, Khanh Vu, recognized the lack of support for Asian women in the tech industry. Grace Hopper exists for women in tech, but there are far more Asians in the industry, and their barrier is compounded by their heritage. SASE staff grew in 2019, with the intention of starting this initiative sooner, but COVID threw a wrench in plans. While the event launch took more time than hoped to get off the ground, we now have a small following of Asian women in the tech industry. We hope to grow

that number and make more of an impact in the community. Plans are already in process for the 2nd Annual SASE Pro AWiT next year; we again are grateful for the support of our sponsor, Cisco. For more information, please visit <https://awit.saseconnect.org/home>.

SASE was founded in November 2007 to help Asian heritage scientific and engineering professionals achieve their full potential. SASE Pro's mission is to unlock the leadership potential of Asian Americans in STEM. With the start-up of SASE Pro AWiT, the

organization hopes to lessen the gap that women feel in the tech industry compared to their male counterparts.



This event was uniquely tailored to the needs and challenges faced by Asian women. The talks, speakers, and workshops are very good and actionable! I highly recommend this event to Asian women. Please keep organizing this event!"

— Google employee





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NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Welcome from the Conference Chair



I'd like to warmly welcome all our sponsors, attendees, and volunteers to our 2024 National Convention in Boston, MA. This year's theme, "Ignite the Spark," represents taking that critical initial step to create the opportunities you wish to see. Embracing intentional action yourself can be the catalyst to inspire others in your circles to follow suit. Oftentimes, however, we can be prone to inaction simply by waiting for the 'perfect' moment. Instead, I challenge you to embrace the spirit of the Convention — meet a new SASE member or take the initiative to network with a career professional!"



Over the next few days, you will have the unique opportunity to engage in stimulating discussions, exchange ideas, and forge new connections. Between our sponsors and our programming team, we have put together a variety of workshops and panels targeted at encouraging professional development. You will also have the opportunity to put your skills to practice at our Hospitality Suites and, ultimately, the Career Fair. Particularly, I'd like to highlight our returning special events this year, which include SASEHack, Professional Networking, and Science Networking Sessions.

Coordinating such an effort continues to be a year-long feat generously supported by SASEStaff and our team of volunteers. It is, in fact, their continued dedication and enthusiasm that makes a significant difference in every aspect of the convention, from initial planning to attendee experience. With that in mind, I'd like to personally thank every committee member and manager on our logistics, programming, marketing, and SASEHack teams for all of their contributions.

I've been fortunate enough to see tremendous growth within the SASE organization since I began volunteering for the NC team and look

forward to seeing that trend continue here and at all our future events. Personally, volunteering for SASE has been such a valuable platform for developing both my leadership experience and creative thinking throughout my collegiate and professional career. I therefore invite you all to visit the Volunteer Resources booth or reach out to any current national volunteers to learn more about future opportunities.

We look forward to seeing all of you out there learning new skills, building connections, and maximizing your convention experience!

Prit Prakash
SASE National Convention 2024 Chair



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SASE NATIONAL CONVENTION AND STEM CAREER FAIR: Creating Connections that Inspire



2023 NC Highlights

2,750+ ATTENDEES

TOP 5 Fields of Study

4.82%
Aerospace Engineering

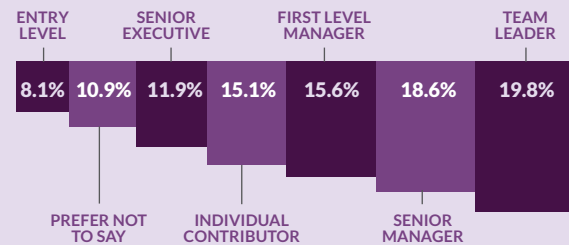
12.85%
Mechanical Engineering

4.34%
Chemical Engineering

5.84%
Computer Engineering

31.14%
Computer Science

Professional Demographics



The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) hosted its annual National Convention and STEM Career Fair from October 11-14, 2023, in Atlanta, GA. This vibrant gathering, themed "Create Connections that Inspire," brought together nearly 3,000 participants, including students, professionals, and executives, all united by a common goal: to help Asians in STEM achieve their fullest potential.

The convention featured a dynamic mix of activities split between the professional and collegiate conferences. Over the course of three days, more than 2,000 collegiate students and sponsors, along with 750 professionals, engaged in a rich program of learning, networking, and career advancement. The event reached unprecedented levels of executive participation, providing attendees with invaluable insights and guidance.

Key participants included students from SASE chapters nationwide and working professionals from various industries. The presence of hundreds of Asian executives

and top-notch trainers emphasized the event's significance and the organization's commitment to excellence. The professional conference offered inspiring training sessions for SASE Pro attendees, helping them sharpen their skills and expand their professional networks.

For the collegiate attendees, the career fair was a highlight, offering numerous opportunities for networking and on-site interviews. The energy and excitement were palpable as students made new connections, and many received job offers on the spot. The event provided a unique platform for young professionals to meet and learn from seasoned leaders in their fields, fostering a sense of community and mutual support.

In addition to the career-focused activities, the convention featured a rich array of cultural performances and dances, celebrating the diverse heritage of the Asian community.

Inspiring keynote speakers captivated the audience with their stories of success

and perseverance, offering valuable lessons and encouragement. Their words resonated with both professional and collegiate attendees, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact in their respective fields.

The SASE National Convention and STEM Career Fair was more than just an event; it was a celebration of community, culture, and the power of connection. The blend of professional development, cultural celebration, and networking opportunities made this event an unforgettable experience for all involved. As participants left Atlanta, they carried with them not only new connections and career opportunities but also a renewed sense of inspiration and commitment to their professional and personal growth.

Looking forward, SASE is excited to build on the success of this year's convention and continue creating opportunities for Asians in STEM to connect, learn, and inspire each other.



Professional Conference

2024 SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

NOTE: All times are in Eastern Time (ET)

Wednesday, October 9 th	
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration Opens
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Pro Conference Welcome + Leadership Awards
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Open Networking
Thursday, October 10 th	
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Day 1 Overview
9:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshops
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Networking Lunch with Executives
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Workshops
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Executive Panel
4:45 PM – 6:00 PM	Networking + Light Refreshments
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Achievement Awards + Dinner
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Networking
Friday, October 11 th	
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Day 2 Overview + SASEsalutes Awards
9:45 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshops
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Networking Lunch
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Workshops
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Executive Panel
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	National Convention 2024 Closing Ceremony
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Total Conference Networking



Subject to change, scan QR for latest schedule

For room numbers and session choices, download the SASE National Convention app

Collegiate Conference

2024 SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

NOTE: All times are in Eastern Time (ET)

Thursday, October 10 th	
2:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Registration
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Collegiate Warm-up Sessions
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Collegiate Networking
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Opening General Session — Sponsored by: 
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	SASEhack
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Suites
Friday, October 11 th	
7:00 AM – 9:00 PM	Registration
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Workshops
10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Morning Pastry & Coffee Break
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Panels & Workshops
11:30 AM – 1:45 PM	Lunch Break
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Limited Edition Pre-Pro and SASE Fun Workshops
2:15 PM – 3:15 PM	Workshops
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Workshops
4:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Asian Snack Break
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Closing Ceremony
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Networking Sessions (Science and General)
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Hospitality Suites
Saturday, October 12 th	
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Ribbon-Cutting and Festive Dance
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	Career Fair



Subject to change, scan QR for latest schedule

For room numbers and session choices, download the SASE National Convention app

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2024 Career Fair at a Glance

Join the best and brightest Asian heritage scientists and engineers at the largest Asian STEM career fair in North America. The 2024 SASE Career Fair showcases opportunities for you to develop your professional networking skills and explore options to advance your education, careers, and industries.

Check out the Career Fair site at conference.saseconnect.org/career-fair for more information!

2024 Career Fair Exhibitors

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| Anheuser-Busch | FBI | Mortenson | Texas Department of Transportation |
| Army Civilian Careers | FedEx | National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) | Turner Construction Company |
| BAE Systems, Inc. | FirstEnergy | National Security Agency (NSA) | UCLA Engineering Online Masters |
| Bechtel Plant Machinery, Inc. | Florida International University – College of Engineering & Computing | NAVFAC (Naval Facilities Engineering) | U.S. Coast Guard |
| Boeing Company (The) | FM | Naval Nuclear Laboratory | U.S. Dept of State |
| Booz Allen | GE Aerospace | Navy Civilian Careers | U.S. Navy |
| Burns & McDonnell | GE Vernova | Northeastern University | U.S. Space Force |
| CIA | Gilbane Building Company | Northrop Grumman | Union Pacific Railroad |
| Chemours Company | Granite | NYU Tandon School of Engineering | United Launch Alliance |
| Chevron | HII | PBF Energy | University of Kansas – School of Engineering |
| Clean Harbors | Honeywell | Procter & Gamble (P&G) | USC Viterbi School of Engineering |
| Columbia University – Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science | Jefferson Lab | Purdue University – College of Engineering | Wabtec |
| Colorado School of Mines | Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory | RTX | Whiting-Turner Construction |
| Constellation Energy | Lehigh University - P.C. Rossin College of Engineering & Applied Science | Savannah River Mission | Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) |
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2024 SASE Role Model DUSTIN NGUYEN

To be seen as a SASE role model, it takes not only an admirable academic and professional profile, but also a dedication to SASE that is unique and self-evident. It's especially helpful to have won the hearts of hundreds of SASE members across the nation. Voted this year's role model, Dustin Nguyen has made an impact on the SASE community in his own distinctive way!

MEET DUSTIN

Favorite Food: Cơm tấm sườn nướng (Vietnamese rice with marinated grilled pork chops)

Favorite Book: Ghostwritten by David Mitchell

Go-To Karaoke Song: Lose My Breath by Stray Kids featuring Charlie Puth

The community and SASEfam is willing to help in whatever shape possible, and that's what Dustin finds so singularly important. Whether that's offering a place to sleep during your travels, helping you navigate career path, or simply making a new friend and having someone to talk to, there's something here in this community for everyone.

"I started down my own path of volunteerism with SASE because the organization's mission helped me become successful in my career journey, and I felt it was only fitting that I pay it forward for the next generation in the SASE community," Dustin explained. "I remember when I first went to the Exelon booth at my first SASE National Convention in 2016 and didn't receive an interview opportunity. Rather than give up, I turned to SASE, which provided me the community and development opportunities that prepared me for another interview with Exelon three years later. That evolved into a full-time job offer, and I still happily work at Exelon. Volunteering with SASE is a way to give back and make an impact wherever I go."

Looking back over his years of involvement with SASE, Dustin is perhaps most proud of leading the planning and execution for the SASE National Convention in 2022 and then building upon it in 2023.

"I knew coming back to an in-person event post-pandemic would have its challenges, and I was proud to take those lessons learned to make it an even better event the following year," Dustin said.

A spirit of fun has also contributed enormously to Dustin's commitment to SASE, with special memories including Northeast-region summer and winter SASEcations, where members would informally gather and connect for a full weekend during winter and summer breaks.

"No matter how you choose to involve yourself with SASE," he said, "Be true to yourself, be adaptable, and go with your gut feeling. Never forget your roots, and always bring people up with you along your journey."

DUSTIN'S SASE INVOLVEMENT

- August 2014: Joined the SASE Lehigh University chapter as a first-year student
- August 2017 – May 2018: Presided as the SASE Lehigh University Public Relations Chair during senior year at Lehigh University
- January 2018 – November 2018: Volunteered as a member on the SASE National Convention 2018 Marketing Committee
- January 2019 – November 2019: Volunteered as the SASE National Convention 2019 Marketing Committee Assistant Manager and Attendance Sub-Committee Manager
- January 2020 – November 2020: Volunteered as the SASE National Convention 2020 Attendance Committee Manager
- January 2021 – Present: Joined the SASE Pro ERG Network representing Exelon
- January 2021 – November 2023: Presided as the National Convention Chair for SASE National Convention 2021, 2022, and 2023
- July 2023 – July 2024: Presided on the SASE Board of Directors as the Collegiate Board Member Representative-Elect
- July 2024 – Present: Transition from Collegiate Board Member Representative-Elect to the Collegiate Board Member Representative



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2024 SASE Stars

The SASE Stars program annually recognizes individuals who stand out as leaders and go above and beyond to further SASE's mission. Already highly revered within their collegiate chapters and national volunteer teams, our SASE Stars are nominated by their SASE peers and then selected for their dedication, impact, and leadership. Congratulations to this year's SASE Stars!



Emerging Star Award

AISHWARYA MANTAGANI

(Awarded to SASE National Volunteers of 1-2 Years)

“ Since joining SASE my freshman year, I've known that this is a community where I can go to make new friends, gain confidence in my professional and social abilities, and create long-lasting memories through events like chapter general body meetings and the National Convention. I am grateful for SASE, and I know that I would not be where I am today if it weren't for the connections and experiences I've gotten through this organization. That realization inspired me to volunteer with SASE because I hope to guide and mentor others in their collegiate chapter and professional careers, just as others have done for me! I'm excited to help the south region grow and flourish this upcoming year — gulf coast best coast!”

- SASE Texas A&M University (TAMU) general member and committee member (officer in training): 2019 – 2020
- SASE TAMU Public Relations Director (in charge of committee and fundraising): 2020 – 2021
- SASE TAMU President: 2021 – 2022
- SASE South Regional Coordinator: 2022 – 2023
- SASE South Senior Regional Coordinator: 2023 – 2024
- SASE South Regional Manager: 2024 – 2025

FUN FACTS

- Favorite Food: Poblano macaroni 'n' cheese
- Favorite Book: Circe by Madeline Miller
- Go-To Karaoke Song: Nonsense by Sabrina Carpenter





Emerging Star Award

MARIE DOCK

(Awarded to SASE National Volunteers of 1-2 Years)



SASE means community and opportunity, and through SASE, I've found family, friends, and connections that have allowed me to grow more than I had ever expected. I wanted to volunteer with SASE to get out of my comfort zone and meet new people. I'm happy to say I've done that and more, and now I want to be a part of its growth and success. I hope to see SASE become an organization that will continue to bring together and support chapters all over the country."

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Dan Dan noodles
Favorite Book: These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong
Go-To Karaoke Song: Red Wine Supernova - Chappell Roan

University of Dayton:

- Member, Secretary: 2019 - 2020
- Vice President: 2020 - 2021
- President: 2021 - 2022

Midwest Regional Team:

- Regional Coordinator: 2022 - 2023
- Program Coordinator: 2023 - present





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Rising Star Award

KATELYNN THAMMAVONG

(Awarded to SASE National Volunteers of 2-4 Years)

“ I loved the community SASE gave me, and I want to give back to others by volunteering and helping folks in college with their SASE chapters. I have made so many life-long friends through SASE and have loved all the opportunities it has given me. I enjoyed working with the other leaders, managers, and directors and getting to learn from one another to enhance our experiences in this space. SASE is a wonderful community, and I am so thankful to have had this space throughout my time in college and early on in my professional career!”



- University of Colorado Boulder
SASE Program Manager:
2018 – 2019
- University of Colorado
Boulder SASE President:
2019 – 2021
- Colorado Regional
Coordinator: 2021 – 2023
- West Regional Manager:
2023 – 2024

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Tonkatsu Ramen
 Favorite Book: We Were Dreamers by Simu Liu
 Go-To Karaoke Song: Party in the USA (Miley Cyrus)
 or My Boo (Usher and Alicia Keys)





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Rising Star Award

PRITHVI PRAKASH

(Awarded to SASE National Volunteers of 2-4 Years)

“ When I think about SASE, I always come back to our sense of community. Our volunteers never hesitate to give their time toward fostering the best experiences for students, whether that’s planning for National Convention or advising our local chapters throughout the year. We really remain driven to uplift each other, and that’s precisely our strength even as a newer organization.”

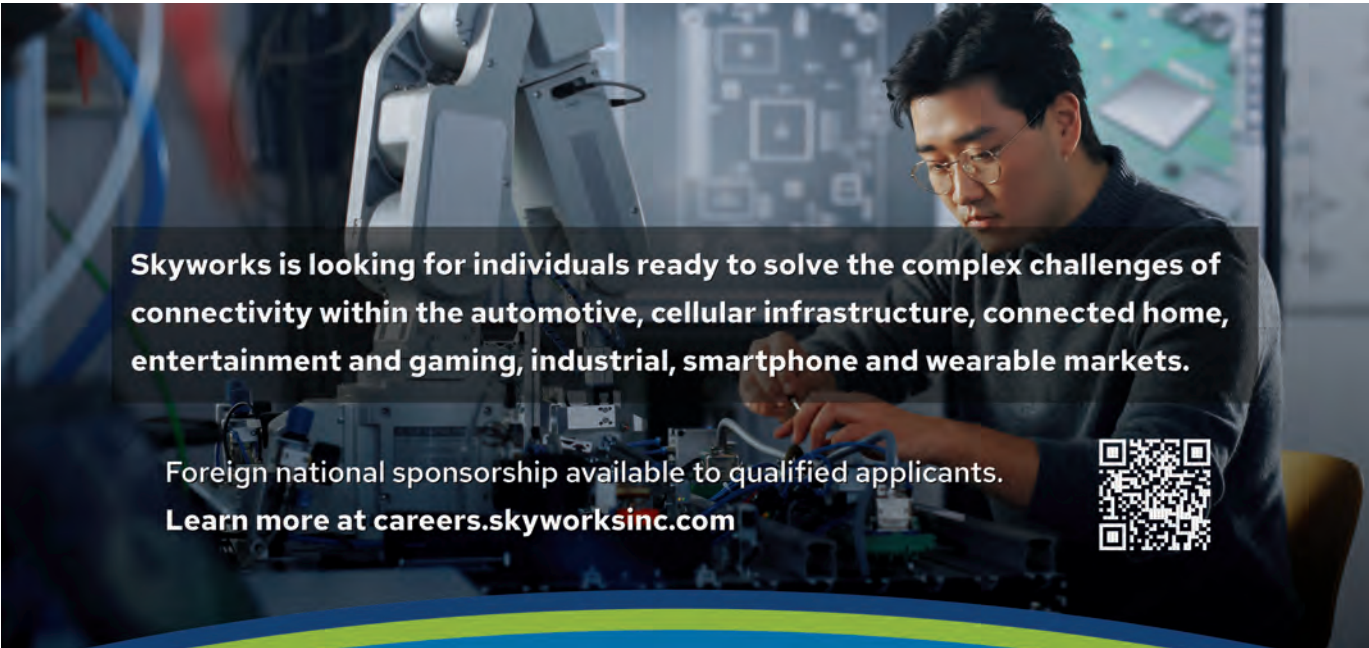
“I’m fortunate enough to have had many wonderful experiences through my time in SASE, as well as meeting many incredible people. I look forward to giving new SASE members similarly meaningful memories. I recognize, however, that volunteering wasn’t just about giving time; it was also about fostering connections, sharing skills, and making a tangible difference. Through my volunteering, I’m able to both honor that spirit of generosity and make lasting impacts.”

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: South Indian Dosa
Favorite Book: Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir
Go-To Karaoke Song: Riptide by Vance Joy



- SASE Texas A&M Committee Member: 2015 - 2017
- SASE Texas A&M Internal Vice President: 2018 - 2019
- National Convention Logistics Committee: 2019 - 2020
- National Convention Logistics Chair: 2022
- National Convention Assistant Chair: 2023
- National Convention Chair: 2024



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2024 Midwest Collegiate Star

KATRINA TAO



As a freshman at the University of Michigan, Katrina knew that she wanted to join at least one club that would be representative of her Asian heritage, because that was something she was not able to experience growing up in rural Vermont. She happened to be wearing a shirt that said “Engineering” on it, and one of the board members working the SASE booth pointed at her and said, “You’re Asian and in engineering? You should join SASE!” Katrina took a flyer and, although she missed the first meeting listed, she went to a bowling social a few weeks later and has been part of SASE ever since.



By sophomore year, she was serving as the social internal chair, and one of the first events she planned was an apple picking trip in late September.

“We had about 20 people come with us, and I got to meet a lot of new people for whom this was their first SASE event. We spent about two hours trying new apples and lugging our overfilled bag around the orchard, which also happened to have insanely good cider donuts and apple cider. We picked extra apples to make caramel apples at our next mass

meeting,” she remembers. It is SASE’s social and professional sides that Katrina especially appreciates, along with the opportunity it provides. Whether it’s panels put on by a chapter, workshops at regional conferences, or the career fair at NatCon, it is all there to help members build themselves professionally. The social aspect is just as important, she feels, because of the connections one makes and the community one builds, both at chapter meetings and larger regional conferences and national conventions.

“Don’t be afraid to come to events even if you are unsure whether you’ll like it or if you don’t know anyone there,” she advised. “Even if you haven’t been able to come to the past couple events, come to the next one! The more events you go to, the more people you’ll meet and build connections with. People who start out as ‘SASE Friends’ tend to end up becoming good friends.”

- Member: 2021 – 2022
- Social Internal Chair: 2022 – 2023
- Co-President: 2023 – 2024
- Midwest Regional Conference (MWRC) Co-Chair: 2023 – 2024
- President: 2024 – Present

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: 五更腸旺
Favorite Book: The Young Elites by Marie Lu
Go-To Karaoke Song: 童話 (Tóng huà) by Michael Wong

Honorable Mention



EMILIO SEESE

Everyone has a unique story to tell about how they first got involved with SASE, and Emilio surely has one that’s tough to beat: In October 2022, he bought some raffle tickets at Ohio State’s Philippine Culture Night (PCN), and his ticket was pulled to go on stage and compete against five others to win the raffle prize in a game of charades. One of his opponents was none other than SASE’s Founder Thomas Fernandez. After the two connected, Thomas mentioned to Emilio that at the time, SASE had no chapter at the University of Cincinnati, which inspired Emilio to spend the next few months

gathering friends and planning to launch a new chapter in Fall 2023.

Since then, the chapter was able to attend the 2023 National Convention in Atlanta, GA, thanks to its six-hour drive time and Emilio’s willingness to drive a 15-person van to get members there. Everyone bonded deeply during their travels, building last memories and grateful for the professional knowledge and wisdom learned at the convention and the amazing connections made.

“After going to my first Midwest Regional Conference hosted by the University of Dayton in 2023, I observed but also engaged with other SASE chapters before we were established as

an official chapter,” he said. “I learned firsthand that SASE is more than a professional-driven organization; I also felt an underlying sense of love and family within the organization. It is a community of like-minded individuals who love to hang out and be together, but who also develop each other professionally.”

This family feeling, Emilio thinks, is what makes it so important to engage with others, whether that’s in your own university chapter or regionally or nationally. Everyone — including those who are older and/or more established in their career — is friendly and approachable, he has discovered, making it easy to count on SASE members for connections or help.



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- Construction Management MS
- Cybersecurity MS
- Electrical Engineering MS, PhD
- Emerging Technologies MS
- Environmental Engineering MS
- Environmental Science MS
- Financial Engineering MS
- Human-Centered Technology, Innovation and Design PhD
- Industrial Engineering MS
- Integrated Design and Media MS
- Management of Technology MS
- Mathematical Sciences MS
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- Transportation Planning and Engineering MS, PhD
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2024 Northeast Collegiate Star

VENKAT CHERUKUPALLI

Venkat's college experience began with COVID, leading him — naturally — to be concerned that a friend group and support system would be harder to come by during the transition to college. But when he saw an invite to RPI's SASE chapter on Discord, he jumped at the opportunity to make friends, and, more importantly, find a place to preserve his identity while jumping into a new world.



“Late-night Discord calls turned into meetups as the pandemic waned,” he said, “and I found that the fear I had at the start of college was completely unfounded as I had a support system that was there for me emotionally, professionally, and academically. I’m glad to give back even a fraction of the love and support I was given over my time in SASE RPI.”

Those early days on the freshly created SASE RPI Discord server, in fact, hold some of Venkat’s most vivid memories, as he learned more about RPI and SASE through upperclassmen, who experienced it before the pandemic.

“I remember Wesley Chow, who was my introduction to many facets of SASE, treating me as an equal, even as I was almost a deer in the headlights trying to absorb everything while also realizing that my experience would never be like his due to COVID,” he

said. “Even still, SASE is different for every person who enters its envelope; there is no single experience that defines it, but there are people and experiences that will define what you get out of it.”

For those about to begin their experience with SASE, Venkat encourages staying open, trying to learn, and giving back to help those who come afterwards.

“This program can only be as great as those who dedicate their time to give that experience to the collegiate and professional members looking to learn, so push the boundary in what you can get out of each experience, and maximize how much you put back to elevate the future,” he advised.

“Treat your first (and second!) year in SASE like a tapas reception; get a taste of everything before you decide on what experiences you want to define your time. There’s a lot that happens in SASE, especially between the chapter, regional, and national levels. But all these resources exist to allow individuals to find what helps them grow. Don’t be afraid to dip your toes into something new, and know that as long as you communicate, nobody will let you go off the deep end.”



- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Freshman Representative: 2020 – 2021
- RPI Treasurer: 2021 – 2022
- RPI Co-President: 2022 – 2023
- Northeastern Regional Conference Logistics Lead: 2024 – 2025
- National Convention Attendance Committee: 2024 – 2025
- RPI Senior Advisor: 2024 – 2025

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Malai Kofta
 Favorite Book: The False Prince
 Go-To Karaoke Song: Let it go by Idina Menzel

Honorable Mention



JOLENE CICCARONE

Similarly to Collegiate Star Venkat Cherukupalli, Jolene joined SASE during the pandemic, when she started college at Stevens Institute of Technology. After researching campus organizations, SASE caught her eye, as she was interested in the professional development and cultural exploration aspects of the organization. And, even with the general body meetings all on Zoom, she was still able to feel the community and camaraderie of the organization. She enjoyed meeting new people and learning together, and her love for SASE only grew as the organization transitioned back to in-person meetings.

Perhaps not surprisingly, SASE Nationals 2022 — her first in-person convention since COVID — became one of her favorite memories.

“I was able to put my interviewing skills to work with the many different networking opportunities, which was nerve-wracking but also very rewarding,” she said. “I was able to bond with members of both my own and other chapters, and I made lifelong friends and got to go on little adventures throughout Georgia, searching for the best foods and sites we could find. I love and cherish those friendships.”

Recognize SASE’s opportunities and resources, she suggests to those new to SASE, and

remember that the network extends well beyond an individual chapter. Volunteer regionally and nationally too, to expand support systems even further.

“I encourage people to volunteer for their regional teams because there are many different leadership opportunities available, and you get to meet a lot of people from other chapters,” she added.

“Whether you would like to help oversee other chapters or offer your time to help plan a conference, you’ll meet new people, learn new skills, and help other people.”



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2024 South Collegiate Star

EMELY CHHU

Sometimes, recognizing the familial feel of SASE comes from a family member, as it did for Emely Chhu when her older sister suggested she should get involved because SASE had the nicest, most supportive people. True to form, the SASE community became a home away from home for Emely and helped her earn her first internship offer.

Her first impression also got a great kick start at the first General Body Meeting (GBM) in the fall semester, which broke the University of Florida’s record for most attendees at an event. “It was incredible to see everything that had been planned for months come together and meet all of our new members for the first time,” she said. “The first GBM of the school year is always a special one.”

For Emely, the leadership and involvement opportunities offered through SASE were important for learning about time management,

communication, and teamwork — all skills one will use for the rest of their life — but the ability to also have fun and meet some of your closest friends cannot be overlooked.

“You will get out as much from SASE as you put in, so get as involved as you can, take advantage of the resources SASE provides, and learn from other members of the SASE Fam! If you invest your time in SASE and surround yourself with the right people, you’ll be in a position to take on opportunities that can change who you are as a person, professional, and leader.”

- Intern: 2021 – 2022
- Member Involvement Chair: 2022 – 2023
- President: 2023 – 2024

FUN FACTS

- Favorite Food: Banh Chao
- Favorite Book: UF SASE 2023-2024 Yearbook
- Go-To Karaoke Song: Unwritten - Natasha Bedingfield

Honorable Mention



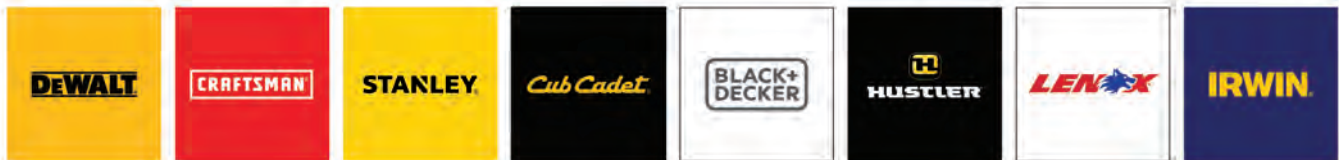
CARTER UNG

Carter joined SASE freshman year to find a community and mentorship throughout college, meeting some of his best friends along the way. By getting involved in leadership, he also felt that he was helping his community through mentorship and by promoting opportunity.

That ability to give back felt especially accessible at the National Convention, where he was able to share the professional world with underclassmen. Meeting SASE members nationwide and being involved with a national Asian professional network encouraged his drive to be a leader in the AAPI community, and he was happy to share that with students.

“SASE is for people of all races and backgrounds,” he pointed out. “It’s an organization that encourages belonging, awareness, and empowerment. Take your time getting to know SASE, and don’t be afraid to sign up for opportunities. Whether it is volunteering, sports, socials, or internship programs, try to be active and learn about SASE’s core values and how it can teach you to be a better person and leader.”

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2024 West Collegiate Star

SHREYASS PREM SANKAR

With a brother as the president of his SASE chapter at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Shreyass heard early on that he should join the chapter at San José State University. After quickly falling in love with the community and feeling inspired to contribute more, he helped plan the West Regional Conference in 2024, crediting the experience with getting to learn and know so much more about SASE and the people in the organization.



“There’s so much more to SASE than you think there is,” he said, “and every time you learn something new, you’re always pleasantly surprised. What you put in is what you get. SASE has a lot to offer for those who are invested.”

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Ramen
Favorite Book: The Mouse Merchant by Amar Chitra Katha
Go-To Karaoke Song: Can’t Hold Us by Macklemore

- Program Director: 2023 – 2024
- Conference Chair: 2023 – 2024
- Program Coordinator: 2024 – Present

Honorable Mention



ANNE MAI

After joining SASE because she learned from her partner that they needed volunteers for planning WRC, Anne quickly discovered that she loved supporting and helping create a conference, so she joined without hesitation. Attending the elected board meeting with her partner and being invited to a food

outing afterward was especially memorable, particularly as she worried, at first, about fitting in.

“This amazing group of people was so welcoming to me that it chased all of those worries away,” she said, “and it made me feel like I belonged. I have never met a club that has invested so much time and effort into

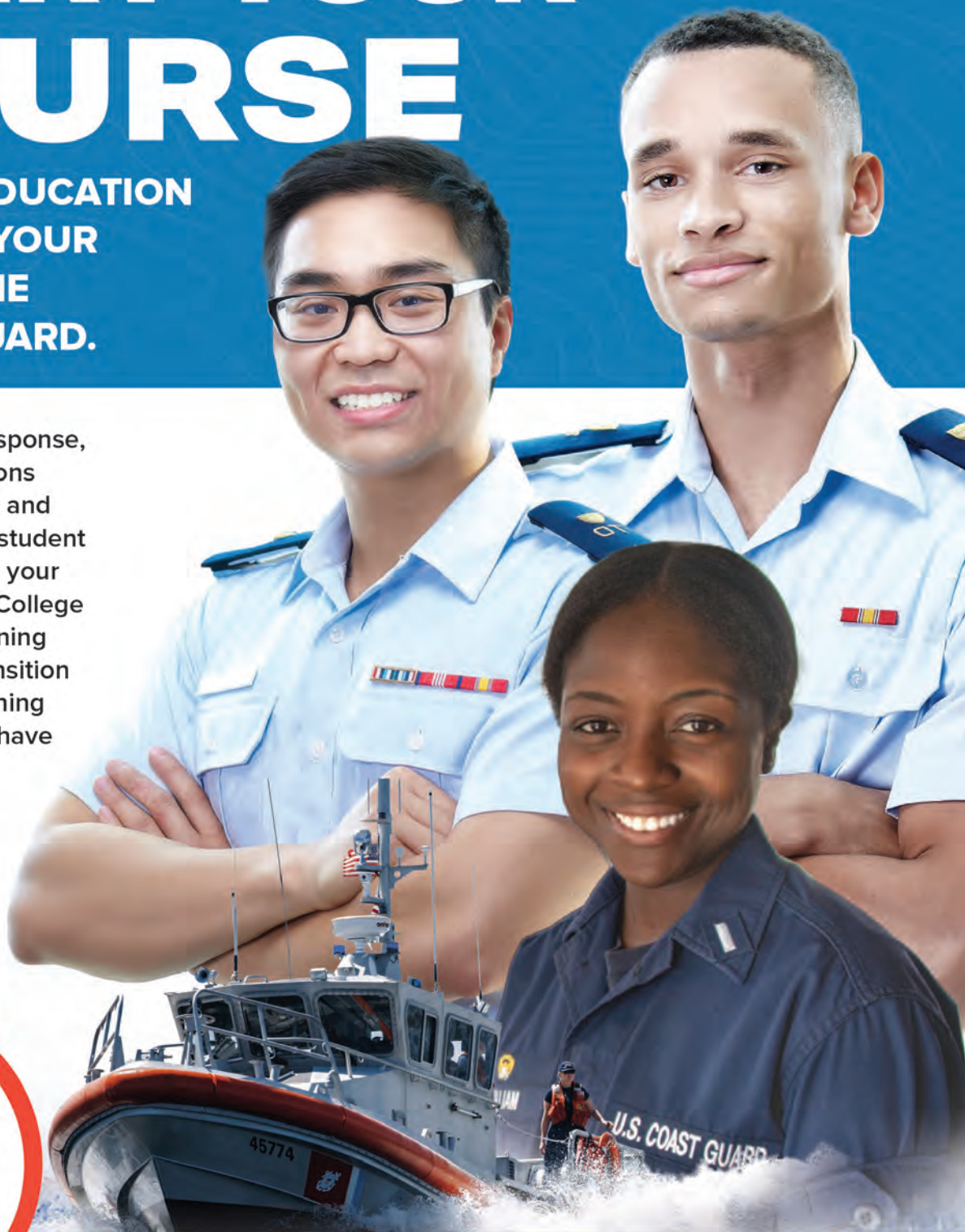
supporting its members and community, not only can you walk into this club and learn so many professional development skills, but they also care about you as a person and want to develop a deep and personal connection. Everyone is kind and genuine, so don’t be afraid to say, ‘hello’ to someone you don’t know. You can’t go wrong.”

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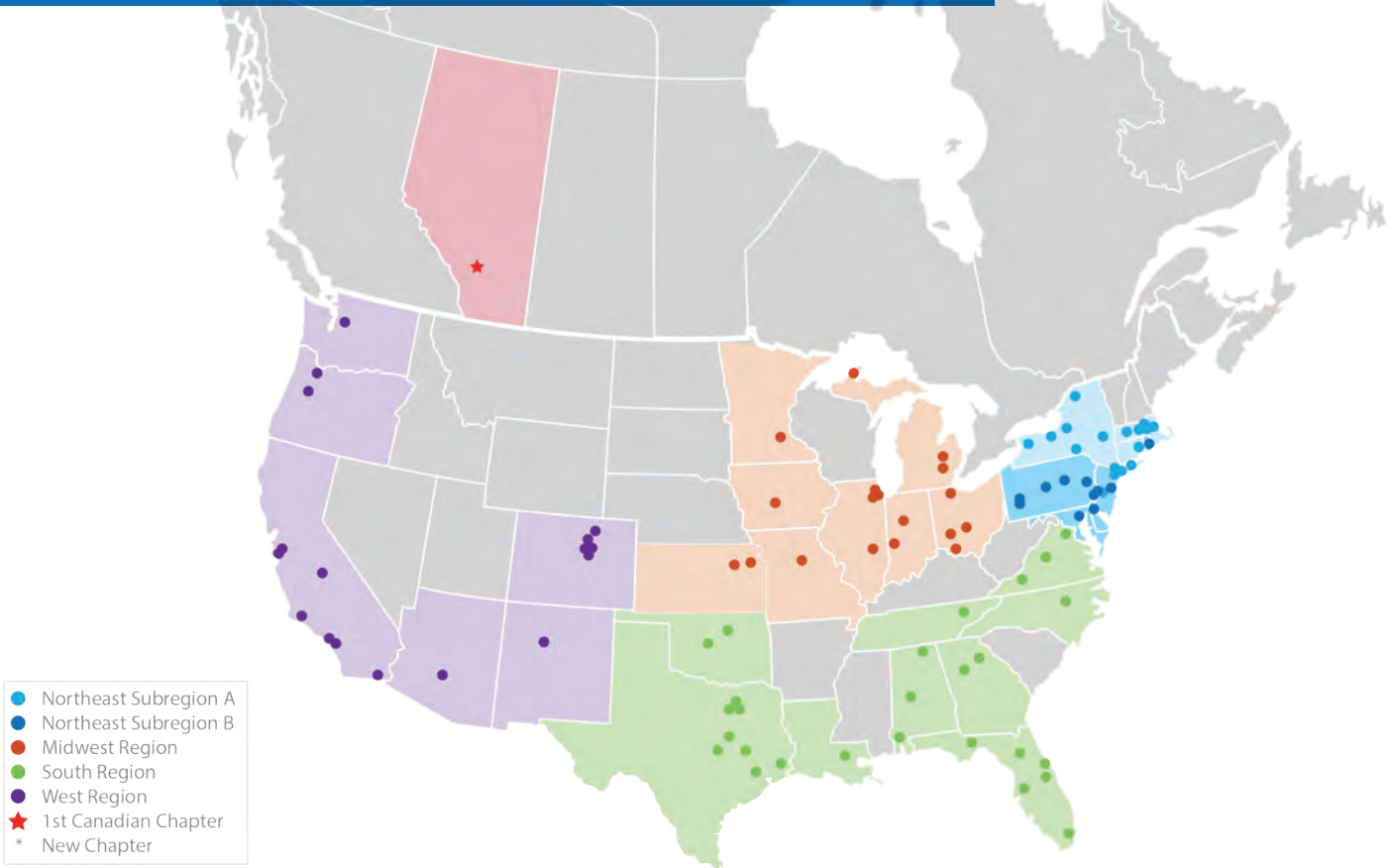


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2024 Collegiate Chapter Map



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- Binghamton University
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- City College of New York, The
- Clarkson University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Princeton University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Stony Brook University
- University at Buffalo
- University of Connecticut
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst
- University of Rochester
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Brown University
- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Drexel University
- Lehigh University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Rutgers University
- University of Delaware
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Pittsburgh
- Villanova University

midwest

- Iowa State University*
- Kansas State University
- Michigan State University
- Michigan Technological University
- Northwestern University
- Ohio State University, The
- Purdue University
- Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
- University of Chicago
- University of Cincinnati
- University of Dayton
- University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
- University of Missouri, Columbia*
- University of Toledo
- Wilbur Wright College

west

- Arizona State University
- California State University - Fresno
- California State University - Long Beach
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University - Fort Collins
- Oregon State University
- Regis University
- San Jose State University
- University of California San Diego
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of California Santa Cruz
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Colorado Denver*
- University of Denver*
- University of New Mexico
- University of Portland
- University of Southern California
- University of Washington

south

- Baylor University*
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach
- Florida State University
- George Mason University
- Georgia Institute of Technology*
- Lamar University
- Louisiana State University
- North Carolina State University
- Oklahoma State University
- Texas A&M University
- University of Alabama - Huntsville
- University of Alabama, The
- University of Central Florida
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Houston
- University of Miami
- University of Oklahoma, The
- University of South Alabama
- University of South Florida
- University of Tennessee - Knoxville, The
- University of Texas at Arlington
- University of Texas at Austin, The
- University of Texas at Dallas
- University of Virginia Charlottesville
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- University of North Texas



CANADA
University of Calgary



Spirit of SASE Awards

The Spirit of SASE Award is honoring outstanding volunteers within each SASE committee. Exclusively selected and recognized by the SASE Squad, these award winners embody the heart and soul of SASE through their extraordinary dedication to the organization's mission.

Congratulations to this year's Spirit of SASE Award recipients!



Collegiate

SONNY DIEP

Sonny has many favorite memories working with SASE, with the Northeastern Regional Conference in 2024 top of mind. "Out of the dozen conferences I attended, this one took the cake," he said. "A big shoutout to the planning team and volunteers! I had the wonderful opportunity to personally connect with all the chapters from the region, finally putting faces to names — and I still keep up with many of them. Sharing my interests and hobbies was a joy, from doing TikTok dances and sharing my knowledge on credit cards to pumping iron in the hotel fitness room and enjoying the ISOxo show with my team. It was an incredibly fun and unforgettable weekend."

The people, not surprisingly, is what makes SASE so special to Sonny. Reflecting on how rare it is to find a community where everyone is committed to personal growth while also empowering and supporting each other, he found it particularly beneficial after college.

"I think the professional journey after graduation can feel isolating, but the friends, mentors, and coaches I met through SASE have always been there to help. Even when you stumble, you can count on the SASE family to have your back — both locally and worldwide. If you're moving to or visiting a new place, SASEfam ensures there's almost always someone there to show you around."

Looking back, what advice would he share? Don't be afraid to try something new, whether it's taking on a leadership position, meeting new people, or attending an event you wouldn't normally consider, you'll always come away with something valuable.

"For example, the first SASE event I attended was NERC 2018 in New Jersey. My mentor encouraged me to go, and I'm so grateful because it pushed me out of my comfort zone. Despite being a shy sophomore, I left that conference feeling inspired to dive into professional development and leadership. It completely reshaped my career path, and I hope you find similar inspiration and growth."

- **Northeastern SASE Chapter**
 - Involvement Chair: 2018 – 2019
 - Corporate Relations Chair: 2019 – 2020
 - Chapter President: 2020 – 2021
- **Northeastern Regional Team**
 - NC Collegiate Programming Committee: 2021 – 2022
 - Regional Coordinator: 2021 – 2022
 - Senior Regional Coordinator: 2022 – 2023
 - Regional Manager: 2023 – 2024



FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Cá Kho Tộ (Vietnamese Braised Fish)

Favorite Book: The Unspoken Rules by Gorick Ng
Go-To Karaoke Song: Because of You by Ne-Yo

Professional

YVONNE CHEN



There's a lot to love about SASE, but one of Yvonne's favorite parts about being with SASE is getting to meet so many volunteers and attendees at the national convention and then rekindling and deepening those relationships again at the next conference.

"You can always find community within SASE that allows you to be true to yourself," she said, "and I hope that any people new

to SASE will discover that. There are lots of opportunities to network and stay connected with the relationships you've made."

FUN FACTS

- Favorite Food: Bān tiáo (飯條)
- Favorite Book: When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi
- Go-To Karaoke Song: Songs that people will sing together

- 2022 SASE Cross Regional Conference Planning Committee: February 2022
- 2022 SASE Pro Women's Leadership Conference Session Leader: April 2022
- 2022 SASE Pro National Convention Logistics Planning Team: July 2022 - October 2022
- SASE Pro Committee: October 2022 - Present

National Convention

PRITHVI PRAKASH



Just two years into his college career, Prithvi discovered what would end up being his favorite memory of volunteering with SASE when he jumped in to help fundraise with his chapter during sophomore year so that as many students as possible could attend the National Convention Schaumburg, Illinois. The team of students worked on several ideas throughout the year, but their Boba sale was most legendary, with 10 students doing everything from brewing tea, preparing boba pearls, and decorating cups. Prithvi remembers the fun far more than the work, and that memory has since served to remind him how important volunteering is.

"Volunteering can be a great starting point for building confidence towards navigating challenging discussions at work," he said. "I've noticed myself applying skills I've learned over time in SASE toward effectively tackling problems alongside my coworkers."

As SASE continues to grow and face new challenges every year, Prithvi advised younger members to keep improving SASE through their fresh perspectives. "Don't shy away from expressing your ideas – there remains plenty of opportunities for valuable impact!"

FUN FACTS

- Favorite Food: South Indian Dosa + Sambar
- Favorite Book: Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir
- Go-To Karaoke Song: Riptide by Vance Joy

- Texas A&M SASE Committee: 2016 - 2018
- Texas A&M SASE Internal Vice President: 2018 - 2019
- National Convention Logistics Committee: 2019 and 2020
- National Convention Logistics Manager: 2022
- National Convention Assistant Chair: 2023
- National Convention Chair: 2024



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RONIT BANERJEE



- **WPI Events Coordinator:**
January 2022 – December 2022
- **WPI Interim Vice President:**
March 2023 – May 2023
- **SASEhack Manager:** February
2023 – December 2023
- **2024 Volunteer Summit
Committee (IT Representative):**
February 2024 – July 2024
- **National Convention
Logistics Co-Manager:**
January 2024 – Present

Teamwork is a common theme when it comes to favorite SASE memories, and for Ronit, organizing SASEhack 2023 with the rest of the team was incredibly rewarding as he saw many months of planning come to fruition during the event. “Coordinating the new in-person final presentations at the 2023 National Convention was a little stressful,” he admitted, “but in the end, it was super fun and fulfilling. As an organizing team, the SASEhack committee felt unstoppable, and it seemed like we could achieve anything.” SASE is also well-known as a place where everyday people can come together to help each other grow, and it’s a reality that Ronit enjoyed – not only for the initial connections of our Asian heritage and interests in STEM, but also because, in spite of so many similarities, there is so much to learn about and from one another.

“SASE’s programs and initiatives don’t just help improve your resume and people skills – they also help you grow as a person in ways beyond what can be learned in a classroom or lecture hall,” he added.

What would he tell a new member of SASE? Don’t be afraid to try new things and make mistakes. If you’re passionate about something, keep pursuing it. Apply for that job, talk to that recruiter, and say hi to the person sitting next to you at a SASE event. “I highly recommend getting involved in SASE at any level, whether it’s through your chapter’s executive board, a small committee, or national volunteering. Once

you put yourself out there, the growth you will experience is incredible. You will make mistakes, and sometimes you may not feel like the best person for the job, but each step will bring you closer to becoming the best version of yourself. Embrace the journey, and you’ll achieve more than you ever imagined.”

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Samosa chaat
Favorite Book: The Percy Jackson series (including Heroes of Olympus)
Go-To Karaoke Song: At My Worst by Pink Sweat\$



- **Volunteer Resources – Talent
Acquisition Analyst:** 2022 – 2023
- **Volunteer Resources – Talent
Acquisition Manager:** 2023 – 2024

FUN FACTS

Favorite food: Phở
Favorite book: The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls
Go-To Karaoke Song: If I Ain’t Got You by Alicia Keys

Volunteer Resources

KIERAN TAY

“My hands-down favorite memory of SASE,” Kieran remembered, “was at the opening of the SASE National Convention 2023 career fair. As Khanh gave his opening speech and raised his scissors to cut the ribbon, you could sense the electricity in the room. It was an atmosphere of tension but also one of determination and perseverance. It was a chance to showcase the culmination of what each attendee had learned in the workshops to highlight their skills, but at the same time, it was a social celebration. There were old friends who saw each other once again and had a chance to catch up, motivate each other to try harder, and build each other’s confidence. And hearing the gong ring out when someone secured an offer was symbolic of someone whose life was changed and set forth into a new chapter.”

Not surprisingly, it is that unwavering sense of community in SASE that resonates so strongly with Kieran. Making friends with people from extremely different walks of life has taught him valuable lessons about cultures, lifestyles, and personal development, and it’s given him the chance to better himself and have friends across the country, no matter where he goes.

“As a member of SASE,” he reminded incoming members, “you are lucky to have access

to a very large community of mentors in academic and professional settings who can give their insights on how you can improve yourself. This is essential in getting a third-person perspective on identifying what your strengths and weaknesses are. Then, these same mentors can provide advice on how to emphasize and reinforce your strengths and improve your weaknesses. Don’t be shy – reach out to someone you aspire to be like!”



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Marketing

UMMIYA CHAUDHARY

No matter where in the world you may find yourself, your network will expand three times over with all the people you meet in SASE and how quickly you'll make such close connections with each other. So says Ummyia, who now knows that she has friends throughout the U.S., whether in Dayton, New York City, Los Angeles, Houston, Atlanta, or Chicago, and they all go far beyond a generic "oh, I know someone here."

"You might know that person because you worked on a SASE event with them in college, or you're on the same regional team, or you helped them on their SASE initiative," she said. "Maybe you volunteered the same shift at the National Convention, or you connected on Discord playing Valorant together. There are so many ways you will cross paths with each other, and the connections made are well beneath surface-level, so that when you are in their city, they are more than eager to catch up with you over lunch and extend their support for you in any way that it is needed."

Building those memories together can come in many forms; for Ummyia, a SASE Midwest Regional Team meeting in Michigan last year was a highlight. Acting as the Collegiate Board Member Representative but being previously on the Midwest Team, she and her team were invited along with the current regional team, and they enjoyed spending the days hanging out together, introducing each other to cultural foods, playing superlatives,

and — when the power went out at the home where they were all staying — ended up doing a puzzle in the dark. "You can't add that skill to your LinkedIn, can you?" she joked.

To new members, Ummyia recommends allowing yourself to be silly. Bring your best self and understand the professionalism required to be a part of the organization, and embrace the leadership development skills that you will gain from SASE. But be sure to show other SASE members who you truly are and where your interests and passions lie, she advised. "Share what makes you human, and you'll be surprised at how many others will share those hobbies. Because of discovered shared interests, I got to go on a swamp tour with Midwest and West members in New Orleans, tried an all-vegan restaurant with South members in Atlanta, and enjoyed a tennis match with a Northeast member in Denver. All that happened because I shared my adventurous, food-curious, tennis-playing self to SASE."



- University of Dayton Chapter Vice-President: 2018 – 2019
- University of Dayton Chapter President: 2019 – 2020
- Midwest Regional Coordinator: 2020 – 2022
- Collegiate Board Member Representative: 2022 – 2023
- National Convention Marketing Manager: 2023 – Present

FUN FACTS

Favorite Food: Mom's Lasagna
Favorite Book: Before the Coffee Gets Cold series by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Go-To Karaoke Song: Party in the USA



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Kieran Tay

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“

SASE is another home away from home for me. I really love meeting new people and hearing their stories, so the networking aspect was very appealing. By collaborating with other like-minded individuals and organizations within SASE, I truly feel like we can collectively drive positive change and create a more equitable future for our peers in the field.

”

ERIC ZHENG
COLLEGIATE COMMITTEE
2018 - 2024



“

The community that SASE has provided really grabbed my attention. The short time that I have been a part of SASE gave me a lot of professional experience, but also getting the chance to meet other people with the same mindset and strive to grow the organization. I entered college and found myself lacking the leadership and confidence that I knew was needed to succeed. Putting myself out there as an exec and also a member of the NC committee really pushed the boundaries to what I'm capable of. I want others to see that when they join SASE, it's not only about the education and employment, moreover the endless friendships you make along the way.

”

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SASE NC COMMITTEE | SASEHACK
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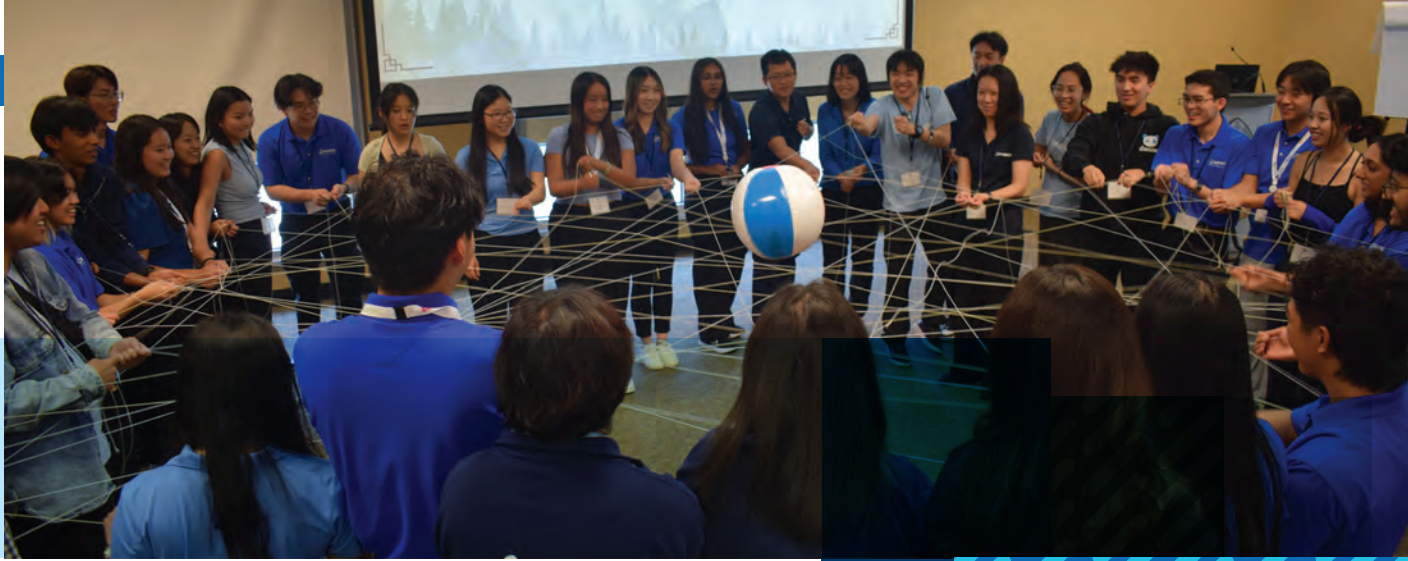
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SASE Volunteer Summit: Quest for New Heights



The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) recently hosted its much-anticipated Volunteer Summit from June 28 to June 30, 2024, at the Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colorado. This annual event brought together volunteers from across the nation for a weekend of networking, learning, and celebration under the inspiring theme, "Quest for New Heights."

A highlight of the summit was an engaging exercise led by Bill Imada, a respected advocate and mentor in the Asian American community. Imada guided participants through an interactive activity using strings as a powerful metaphor to symbolize the connections among SASE volunteers. This exercise emphasized the importance of unity and collaboration within the organization, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

Participants enjoyed a variety of workshops, each designed to foster creativity,

collaboration, and personal growth. From photography and coquetting to origami-making and dancing, the workshops offered something for everyone, encouraging volunteers to explore new skills and hobbies. These activities not only provided a fun break from the usual routines but also served as icebreakers, helping attendees bond and form new friendships.

One of the highlights of the summit was the breakout sessions, where volunteers gathered in smaller teams to discuss and brainstorm key events and initiatives for the upcoming year. These sessions were a breeding ground for innovative ideas and strategic planning, ensuring that the organization continues to grow and make an impact in the community. The collective enthusiasm and creativity were palpable, and the sense of shared purpose was inspiring.

With an attendance of 60 passionate volunteers and staff, the event was a testament

to the strong community spirit within SASE. Attendees praised the well-organized event and expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals. The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and mutual support, reinforcing the organization's mission to empower Asian heritage scientists and engineers for success.

As the summit concluded, there was a sense of anticipation for the future. The event not only highlighted the organization's accomplishments but also laid the groundwork for future endeavors.

The SASE Volunteer Summit was more than just an event; it was a celebration of community, innovation, and the power of connection. It showcased the dedication and passion of SASE volunteers and set the stage for another year of growth and success. We can't wait to see everyone again next year, as we continue to soar to new heights together.



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