

APACC Expands National Reach with ACE Collaboration

APACC is pleased to announce that we are aligned with the Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship (“ACE”). Our collaboration with ACE will provide APACC with much needed representation at the national level. ACE is a national organization established to respond to the growing need for Asian-American and Pacific Islander (“AAPI”) representation in Washington, DC. ACE gives a voice to the business interests of AAPIs by advocating for AAPI businesses at the national level and promoting the need for wider AAPI leadership in corporate America. ACE represents the business interests of AAPIs in Washington, DC through collaborations with regional AAPI chambers of commerce, like APACC, across the U.S.

In May 2013, ACE became the only national AAPI business organization to enter into a MOU with the Small Business Administration (SBA). The MOU formalizes the SBA’s commitment and partnership with ACE to fully engage with AAPI businesses by playing a more visible and active role in our communities.

On October 24, 2013, Grace Lee, APACC President and Vice Chair and Rona Lum, APACC Board Member, attended the National ACE Forum and Awards Reception held at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, D.C. In attendance were representatives from 18 Asian Chambers of Commerce from several states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia. In addition, representatives from the following corporations were in attendance: Southern California Edison, Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., Verizon, Comcast Corporation, State Farm Insurance Companies, The Coca-Cola Company, Accenture, and Walmart.

Attendees were hosted by the Republican National Committee for a breakfast meeting. Present at the breakfast meeting were several key representatives of the Republican National Committee (RNC) including Mr. Nicholas D. Muzin, Director of Outreach and Coalitions, House Republican Conference, Mr. Bill Green, House Speaker’s Office, Mr. Wyatt Stewart, Policy Advisor, House Majority Leader’s Office, Mr. Stephen Fong, National Field Director for Asian Pacific American Initiative, Ms. Elizabeth Heng, Advisor to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Mr. Jason Chung, Advisor, Asian Affairs, RNC.

ACE leadership met with members of both parties of Congress, including The Honorable Ed Royce (Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee and a senior member of Congress); The Honorable Ted Yoho, 3rd Congressional District, Florida; and The Honorable Steve Chabot, 1st Congressional District, Ohio. They also met with ranking staff members from commerce, international trade and development, and education. Issues involving international trade and development and immigration were discussed.

Meetings were held in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building with top representatives from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA).

Forum attendees were also invited by the White House to attend President Obama and Vice-President Biden’s press conference held in the East Room, on the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

APACC plans to continue to build on its collaboration with ACE to voice the concerns of APACC members to our leaders in Congress and to the White House. Wherever appropriate, our collaboration with ACE provides another avenue for APACC to showcase the products and services of our many sponsors on a national level, increasing the ROI on their investments in APACC. In addition, we plan to keep our APACC members informed of any ACE-facilitated events in Washington, DC and around the country, to enable APACC members to grow their businesses and political reach both within and outside their home states. A SBA related event in Detroit is noted below.