

AAPA OKURA COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

K. Patrick Okura and his wife Lily had been married for just two months in December, 1941 when the U.S. War Department gave them four days to pack only what they could carry and sent them to live on an internment camp. Like thousands of other Japanese Americans, Okura was imprisoned immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor during an era when an Asian heritage was viewed as a threat to national security, an experience that has since stayed with him. In 1988, when the U.S. government paid the Okuras and all other former internment camp prisoners \$20,000 each, they used that money, along with personal savings, to help today's Asian-Pacific Americans, who they believe are imprisoned in a different way: The Okuras launched the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation, which helps Asian-Pacific Americans overcome racial, sociopolitical, language and other barriers through its Week in Washington Leadership Seminar.

Okura had a long, highly successful career in mental health and has been a strong leader and pioneer for Asian-Pacific Americans throughout his life. Among many achievements, Okura worked at NIMH for 17 years, retiring in 1985. During his last four years, he directed the NIMH International Mental Health Program, visiting mental health agencies all over the world. He also helped found the Asian American Psychological Association.

Award: \$1,000 award plus travel stipend* to present at the upcoming AAPA Convention

Criteria:

- Current AAPA member.
- The Pat Okura Community Leadership Award was created for a professional or student who demonstrates outstanding community service and/or leadership that benefits the Asian American community.
- Awardees may come from a variety of disciplines including: psychology, social work, health, psychiatry, medicine, etc.
- The awardee might be a senior leader in community mental health or an Asian American community organization whose leadership has benefited the Asian American community.
- Self-nominations are encouraged
- Individuals can only receive the Okura Leadership Award on one occasion throughout their career.

Procedures

1. A formal letter of nomination (separate from letters of recommendation) that must include:
 - a. Qualifications of the nominee relative to the specific award goals and criteria
 - b. Details of the specific contributions in relation to the award goals and criteria
2. Nominee's CV
3. At least one letter of recommendation (no more than two letters)

* *travel stipends are limited to \$1000*

DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS AWARD

The Distinguished Contributions Award recognizes AAPA members who have made career contributions to the advancement of psychological issues relevant to Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans in three major areas: Scholarship, Practice, and Leadership.

1. **Scholarship:** contributions to the development of conceptual psychological schemes or theories; applications of research and theories; the integration of knowledge to provide greater understanding of Asian Americans.
2. **Practice:** innovations and outstanding applications of the knowledge base in Asian American psychology; the development of programs, procedures, or technical skills in mental health, intergroup relations, and Asian American welfare.
3. **Leadership:** activities related to furthering Asian American interests through legislative, legal, political, or organizational involvement; leadership in local, state, or federal organizations.

Award: Plaque

Criteria:

- Current AAPA member.
- Individuals can only be nominated for one of the three Distinguished Contribution areas at a time.
- Self-nominations are encouraged

Nomination Procedures

1. A formal letter of nomination must describe:
 - a. The nominee's qualifications for the award
 - b. Nominee's specific career contributions to the advancement of psychological issues relevant to Asian Americans in the recognized area (i.e., scholarship, practice, leadership)
2. Nominee's CV
3. At least one letter of recommendation (no more than two letters)

AAPA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The AAPA Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes distinguished and exemplary long-term contributions to the field of Asian American Psychology from a senior level psychologist. Long-term is defined as a career spanning no less than 25 years. The areas of contributions for this award are similar to those for the Distinguished Contributions Award, namely Scholarship, Practice, and Leadership.

1. **Scholarship:** contributions to the development of conceptual psychological schemes or theories; applications of research and theories; the integration of knowledge to provide greater understanding of Asian Americans.
2. **Practice:** innovations and outstanding applications of the knowledge base in Asian American psychology; the development of programs, procedures, or technical skills in mental health, intergroup relations, and Asian American welfare.
3. **Leadership:** activities related to furthering Asian American interests through legislative, legal, political, or organizational involvement; leadership in local, state, or federal organizations.

The award is given only occasionally, and to-date there has been only 8 recipients of this prestigious award from the Association.

Award: Plaque

Criteria:

- Current AAPA member.
- Involved in professional-level scholarship, practice, and/or leadership to Asian American psychology for no less than 25 years
- Self-nominations are encouraged

Nomination Procedures

1. A formal letter of nomination must describe:
 - a. The nominee's qualifications for the award
 - b. Nominee's distinguished and exemplary long-term contributions to an area of Asian American Psychology
2. Nominee's CV
3. At least one letter of recommendation (no more than two letters)

AAPA EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SERVICE

The AAPA Early Career Award recognizes distinguished contributions to the field of Asian American Psychology from a psychologist early in his or her career. This award will be given to an early career psychologist who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the areas of service, which can include practice, advocacy, and/or leadership in applied (non-academic) settings. Qualified candidates for this award should demonstrate achievement in one or more of the following areas:

- a. innovative and outstanding delivery of psychological services to Asian Americans
- b. development of programs, procedures, or technical skills in mental health, intergroup relations, and Asian American welfare
- c. activities related to furthering Asian American interests through legislative, legal, political, or organizational involvement (including student and community organizations)
- d. leadership in local, state, or federal organizations that serve the public interest of Asian Americans
- e. other advocacy work on behalf of Asian Americans (e.g., providing pro-bono work to Asian Americans whose access to services may be limited).

Award: Plaque

Criteria:

- Current AAPA member.
- The candidate may not be more than 8 years post-Ph.D.
- An established record of practice, advocacy, and/or leadership contributions to Asian American psychology for an early career professional
- Self-nominations are encouraged

Nomination Procedures

1. A formal letter of nomination must describe:
 - a. The nominee's qualifications for the award
 - b. Details of the nominee's specific contributions to practice, advocacy, or leadership that merit the award
2. Nominee's CV
3. At least one letter of recommendation (no more than two letters)

AAPA EARLY CAREER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESEARCH

The AAPA Early Career Award recognizes distinguished contributions to the field of Asian American Psychology from a psychologist early in his or her career. This award will be given to an early career psychologist who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in research and scholarship. Candidates must demonstrate outstanding contribution in one or more of the following areas:

- a. development or advancement of psychological theories in Asian American psychology
- b. noteworthy research contributions that further the knowledge base of Asian American psychology.

Award: Plaque

Criteria

- Current AAPA member
- The candidate may not be more than 8 years post-Ph.D.
- An established record of scholarly and/or research contributions to Asian American psychology for an early career professional
- Self-nominations are encouraged

Nomination Procedures

1. A formal letter of nomination must describe:
 - a. The nominee's qualifications for the award
 - b. Details of the nominee's specific contributions to research and scholarship that merit the award
2. Nominee's CV
3. At least one letter of recommendation (no more than two letters)

AAPA Dissertation Research Grant

The AAPA Dissertation Research Grants are awarded to doctoral students to support research that contributes to the advancement of Asian American Psychology. Dissertation Grant recipients will be required to do the following:

- Submit a final report summarizing the results to the AAPA Executive Committee within 12 months of receipt of the grant
- Present their research at the following AAPA annual convention (e.g., if awarded at the convention in 2021, should present at the convention in 2022)

Award: Doctoral students may apply for a grant up to \$500, for a one-year period. Depending on the budget and number of applications received, it is possible that more than one student may be recognized. This award also comes with complimentary admission to the AAPA banquet which takes place immediately following the AAPA Convention. All awards will be presented during the Awards Ceremony during the AAPA banquet.

Criteria

- Current student member of Asian American Psychological Association
- Enrolled in a doctoral-level psychology training program

Application Procedures

1. Proposal: Proposals should be concise, no more than 5 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography and instruments, and should include the following sections:
 - a. Abstract (one page or less, separate from the body of the proposal)
 - b. Problem or topic/Rationale
 - c. Brief overview of Theoretical/Conceptual Framework
 - d. Research design, including research questions, instruments and measures to be used, subject selection, data collection and analysis.
 - e. Anticipated results
 - f. Implications for Asian American Psychology
 - g. Budget plan
2. CV
3. One letter of recommendation from chair/advisor/sponsor of the research project

THE STEPHEN C. ROSE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH ON ASIAN AMERICAN YOUTH

Established by The Steve Fund, this scholarship is in memory of Stephen C. Rose whose passions included psychology, in which he attained a graduate degree. It seeks to encourage and promote research on psychological challenges confronting Asian American youth and young adults. This is an area of study which needs greater attention, particularly given the impact of societal issues such as racism, which have a negative effect on the mental health of Asian American college-aged youth.

The Steve Fund has established this annual award in recognition of the inspiration Stephen gave to all of those who knew him. Stephen was a young African American man who lived life with courage, determination, and compassion. He cared deeply about the well-being of others, therefore this fund was created by his family and friends to promote the mental and emotional well-being of young people of color. The recipient of this award will be expected to present the results of their work at the next upcoming AAPA convention. (e.g., if awarded at the convention in 2021, should present at the convention in 2022)

Award: \$1,000 plus a travel stipend* to present research at the next AAPA Convention. This award also comes with complimentary admission to the AAPA banquet which takes place immediately following the AAPA Convention. All awards will be presented during the Awards Ceremony during the AAPA banquet.

Criteria:

- Graduate or Undergraduate student members of AAPA may apply
- Current student member of Asian American Psychological Association

Application Procedures: The following materials should be compiled into one file

1. Research Summary/Abstract: One 500-word summary of proposed research focused on the mental and emotional health of Asian American students and/or youth
2. Personal Statement: One 500-word statement that provides an overview and background of experience and interest in the research topic, and background information in terms of where you are in your studies.
3. 1-page Letter of Support from Research Advisor/ Sponsor

** travel stipends are limited to \$1000*