



ENTERPRISE

A newsletter of Asian American Economic Development Enterprise, Inc.
A non-profit organization helping Asian Americans and others to help themselves.

Volume 32, No. 1

August 2023

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AAEDE's 2023 Scholarship Recipients

By Angela Shum

ACHIEVING SUCCESS: (From left to right) Xue Li Weng, Youwei Fan, Christine Wu, and Administrative Assistant Grace Gao.

In 2010, former Administrative Assistant Kelly Lam introduced an annual scholarship that has now become a cherished tradition upheld by AAEDE. This scholarship grants awards ranging from \$500 to \$1000 upon high school seniors. The application process primarily centers around the submission of compelling essays that showcase their individuality, accompanied by a letter of recommendation from their academic advisors. Following the assessment of both components, the winners will be selected, taking into account their financial need and academic achievements.

This year's AAEDE Scholarship luncheon took place at the Longten restaurant in Los Angeles. The event brought together the winners along with their invited relatives, offering AAEDE staff the chance to forge personal connections with the recipients and gain valuable insights into their aspirations and future plans.

In recognition of their dedicated and diligent efforts, there were four winners for this year's 12th annual scholarship: Xue Li Weng, Youwei Fan, Christine Wu, and Siyona Thakkar. From Montebello High School, Xue Li Weng will attend the University of California Los Angeles, with a major in Mechanical Engineering. Previously attending Alhambra High School, Youwei Fan will attend the University of Southern California, majoring in Business Administration. From Downtown Magnets High School, Christine Wu will be an incoming student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in Computer Science. From San Gabriel High School, Siyona Thakkar will be an incoming student at the University of Westminster. Congratulations to this year's winners in their academic pursuits, and we eagerly anticipate the ambitious scholarship candidates of the next year!

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12th Annual Job and Career Fair

By Yuli Wu & Ashlee Nim

On Friday, August 18, 2023, AAEDE hosted their 12th Annual Job and Career Fair which was held at Almansor Court in Alhambra, CA. There was a great turnout this year allowing us to reach capacity of 120 companies, each representing a unique sector of the job market, showcasing their opportunities and engaging with nearly 600 attendees who were eager to explore new avenues of professional growth. This year's fair was distinguished by the astounding diversity of the enterprises who participated. Ranging from tech startups to established financial institutions, healthcare providers to marketing agencies, the job fair truly had a wide range of opportunities for each attendee. As they made their way through the fair, visitors had the option to have thoughtful dialogues with representatives from these businesses, getting important information about the various industries, job roles, and corporate cultures.



JOB SEARCHING: FedEx representatives offer an inside look into their application process and establish connections with prospective candidates for recruitment purposes.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY: Representatives from H Mart engage with prospective applicants on the career prospects that the company offers.

This event highlighted AAEDE's dedication to promoting an inclusive and equal opportunity job market. The job fair not only gave job searchers a chance to network with prospective employers, but it also emphasized the value of diversity and equal representation in the industry. Companies proudly demonstrated their commitment to fostering an inclusive workplace culture, reflecting a group effort to welcome people from all backgrounds.

Yuli Wu



Hello! My name is Yuli Wu, I am a second-year at the University of California, Riverside and majoring in Business Economics. This is my second year interning at AAEDE where I aspire to gain knowledge and experience in the workforce as team leader, further my communication skills, and learn how to better work as a team. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity as it allowed me to meet such great new people and ultimately make a positive impact in the community to help those in need.

A Word From the Interns

One of the biggest attractions for attendees at the event was the resume critique workshop that was run by one of our partners, PACE. A good resume can be a powerful tool that helps you stand out in a competitive job market, communicate your value to potential employers, and advance your career. Taking the time to create a well-structured and compelling resume can greatly enhance your chances of landing interviews and securing the job opportunities you desire. With that being said, attendees were encouraged to meet with an experienced professional with well-versed resume writing to help strengthen their resumes as well as making any last minute revisions that aligned with the specific job roles they aspired to secure.

These mentors provided applicants with individualized advice and suggestions to help them polish their resumes to the highest standard using their well-honed experience. With this strategy, each attendee's distinctive abilities and experiences were properly highlighted, increasing their chances of striking out to potential employers. After the refinements have been made attendees were escorted to a printing station, where they received physical copies of their resumes to approach desired companies with newfound confidence, within and outside of the job fair.

AAEDE's 12th Annual Job and Career Fair was a great success, and we would like to continue the tradition next year and beyond. Thank you once again to our partners: Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN), Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and Employment Development Department (EDD). Each partner brought unique expertise, resources, and perspectives to the table, enriching the event's offerings and ensuring that it resonated with a diverse range of job seekers and employers. Without their assistance, this event would not be possible.



CRAFTING CAREERS: In preparation for further in-depth discussions on additional refinement with specialists, attendees are updating their resumes.

Ashlee Nim

A Word From the Interns



Hi! My name is Ashlee Nim, I am a second-year at the University of Southern California and majoring in Biochemistry. This is my second year interning at AAEDE, in hopes of improving my communication skills and obtaining experience while working in a professional team environment. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity as it allowed me to meet and work with new people while also being able to help out the community I love.

May Kishiyama Scholarship & Mentoring Program

By Bilan Guan

Asian American Economic Development Enterprises (AAEDE) is committed to giving back to the community and has been involved in numerous initiatives supporting students of all backgrounds and ages. For many years, AAEDE has supported high school students as they navigate their college process. This year AAEDE donated \$5000 to the Lincoln Heights Mentoring Program Scholarship at Lincoln High School. This school mainly consists of first-generation, low-income, and immigrant students who demonstrate academic excellence and strive to attend college.

The mentoring program is a three-year program that creates spaces for mentorship and guidance to first-generation, low-income, and immigrant high school students exploring their academic options. Students apply to the mentoring program towards the end of their 9th grade or beginning of 10th grade to receive a scholarship upon graduation and be matched with a volunteer mentor who is either a Lincoln High School alumnus or a dedicated supporter of the Lincoln Heights community. The mentoring program hosts many different activities to prepare students for college while fostering their growth as students and community leaders. These activities include workshops, college tours, company site visits, community volunteering, and more.

The program's impact extends well beyond high school graduation. Graduates stay connected with the program where they give back by being guest speakers for workshops. Specifically, college students have the chance to share advice transitioning to their first year of college and tips on the college application process. Moreover, once they complete their own college journey, they have the opportunity to return and volunteer as mentors for the program, further enriching the experience for future students.

Our donation to Lincoln Heights Mentoring and Scholarship Program creates a positive change in our community as it offers financial support to students pursuing higher education, alleviating some of the financial burden that comes with attending college. Asian American Economic Development Enterprises is delighted to have been very supportive of the Lincoln Heights Mentoring and Scholarship Program for many years and will continue to support students pursuing higher education.

Bilan Guan

A Word From the Interns



Hello! My name is Bilan Guan and I am a rising sophomore at the University of California, Los Angeles, pursuing a double major in Biology and Economics. This is my first year interning with AAEDE where I am eager to give back to my community and cultivate skills relevant for my future career. I'm incredibly excited about this opportunity to gain deeper insights into the corporate world and intricacies of the business field.

Preparing for Job Opportunities

By Angela Shum & Yuli Wu

Beginning your career can be quite challenging, but following these suggestions can assist you greatly in achieving your goals. Updating your resume is the first stage, where you list your accomplishments, qualifications, and marketable skills. By looking for professional evaluations or examples online, you can develop a format, and gain ideas to strengthen your resume. Within your resume your achievements should be emphasized when prospective employers look for relevant experience, in addition to helping you establish your professional aspirations. It is significant to keep in mind that your resume should be concise, ideally not exceeding one page in length. Creating an exceptional resume highlights your dedication to your targeted job field and helps you stand out from other applicants.

Along with a resume, another important factor is discovering networking opportunities. By utilizing technology, modern platforms have rendered it easier to discover a job through search engines and sites like LinkedIn, which can be an excellent means to network with professionals across the world. It is imperative that you thoroughly examine job advertisements before sending in your resume to ensure that the position aligns with your qualifications and the requirements of the employment. Attending employment and career fairs in person is another method to network. Direct conversations with company employees offer a deeper understanding of their business. During these events, certain companies may even set up interviews or finalize recruiting decisions on the spot. To give an accurate representation of your qualifications during these interviews, it's advantageous to have a resume present.

After applying, the interview stage may seem daunting, but researching as extensively as possible about the role and the company provides you with significant details about the kind of applicant they are looking for. With this understanding, you may confidently and courteously react to interview questions with confidence. Being well-prepared is essential given that the interview influences how people perceive you. Professionalism is demonstrated by appearing early and dressing appropriately to the institution's dress code. Dressing appropriately for interviews shows respect for the company's culture and helps create a positive first impression. Research the company's dress code and aim for a professional and polished appearance. During interviews, convey your excitement for the role and the company. Engage with the interviewer, ask thoughtful questions, and showcase your passion for contributing to the company's success.

In today's job market, the quest for employment is undeniably competitive. Alongside you, there will be numerous individuals applying for the same positions, many of whom have impressive backgrounds and qualifications. Although this reality can be intimidating, it is essential to stay positive and practice patience. Job searching can be demanding, and rejection is part of the process. Maintain a positive attitude, focus on your strengths, and use any setbacks as opportunities for growth. Finding the right job takes time. Stay patient, persistent, and open-minded to different opportunities that come your way. Each application and interview is a chance to learn and improve.

By combining these strategies, you'll be well-equipped to successfully navigate the job search process, stand out to potential employers, and improve your chances of getting the position you've been working towards. Keep in mind that your proactive approach, perseverance, and ongoing self-improvement will ultimately contribute to your success. With that being said, AAEDE wishes you the best of luck!

Angela Shum

A Word From the Interns



Hello! My name is Angela Shum, a second-year student at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, pursuing a major in Graphic Communications. I'm grateful for the invaluable opportunity as my second year as an intern at AAEDE, where I can enhance my abilities in both communication and graphic design. This internship has been an exceptional experience for me, enabling me to make a positive impact and contribute meaningfully to my community, which I've proudly called home for many years. I deeply appreciate the chance to help those in need and give back in ways that truly matter.

AAEDE's School Supply Donation

By Elizabeth Jin

A AAEDE aims to support students through the aid of academic supplies for their educational journey. Academic supplies play a crucial role in maintaining ongoing academic achievement by facilitating effective learning through engagement and comprehension. They enable students to dive deeper into subjects, complete assignments, and participate actively in class. These resources empower students to explore concepts, express creativity, and develop crucial skills. By fostering a learning environment, educational supplies lay the foundation for students to excel academically and realize their full potential.

A total of over 4,000 backpacks, pencils, and crayons were donated through delivery and in person within the Garvey and El Monte School Districts. On March 8, 2023, 875 backpacks, pencils, and crayons were handed out to Monterey Vista and Rice Elementary students.

Recognizing students' happiness upon receiving supplies creates a supportive environment that nurtures not only academic growth but also emotional well-being, ultimately contributing to more fulfilling and successful educational outcomes. These donations will help enhance a student's overall academic experience, encourage active participation, and bring a desire to excel.

Beyond the Monterey Vista and Rice Elementary School, our dedication extends to eight other schools within the Garvey and El Monte School Districts: Bitely, Dewey, Duff, Emerson, Hillcrest, Sanchez, Willard, and Rio Vista. Over 3,000 backpacks and supplies were

delivered to these elementary schools for students to use for educational support. The backpack donation revolves around actively contributing to the well-being of the community. AAEDE is deeply committed to empowering the youth by advocating for the significance of education without the worry of financial burden. The organization's dedication stems from recognizing that financial constraints can hinder access to quality learning resources and opportunities. By actively addressing these obstacles, AAEDE ensures that every student, regardless of their economic background, can fully thrive academically. With a successful backpack donation, AAEDE will continue to bring aid and support to the community of youth. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event and helped prepare students for many years to come!



BACKPACK DONATION: AAEDE staff arranges backpacks in readiness for distribution to elementary students.

Elizabeth Jin



A Word From the Interns

Hi! My name is Elizabeth Jin, and I am a rising freshman at the University of California, Los Angeles, for Business Economics. My commitment to grow and open myself to opportunities for learning has helped me build my interests and passions in the business field. Spending a year at AAEDE has been a wonderful learning experience in regards to networking and communication, as well as implementing marketing skills! I am extremely grateful for this opportunity because it allowed me to gain and improve the skills I need for college and beyond.

Team Building: Fostering Collaboration and Success

By Bilan Guan & Elizabeth Jin

In today's dynamic and evolving landscape, the power of teamwork cannot be underestimated. While getting to know colleagues and establishing connections is an important step, ensuring new employees feel welcomed and current employees remain approachable is equally significant. A great team is a combination of efforts from both parties. A well-structured, open, and collaborative team is essential to quickly producing high quality work. Whether it's school projects or corporate work environments, a team is a group of people coming together, bringing complimentary skills to collaborate and achieve a common goal. In addition to achieving a shared goal, team building is also about mutual learning and skill improvement among members. This process involves fostering a culture of open communication, trust, and respect.

Every successful team starts with clear objectives, roles, and responsibilities. This ensures everyone understands their contributions and how they can leverage their individual strengths to reach the team's goals. Regular updates to keep everyone on the same page is also important. This establishes transparency and trust within the team. Team members appreciate having access to updated information and being in the loop, which results in higher efficiency and helps identify areas that may need additional support. On top of everything, effective communication prevents minor errors from magnifying into major setbacks. Effective communication not only entails conveying messages clearly but also ensuring that the intended meaning is accurately received and understood. This sets clear expectations to mitigate misunderstandings and potential conflicts. Communication can come in different forms depending on the preference of the team. Some examples include weekly team meetings, emails, messaging platforms, and Gantt Charts.

In order to encourage effective communication among team members, creating a positive work environment is important. Approachability plays an integral role, especially when it comes to conflict resolutions. In the workplace, disagreements are inevitable, but how the team handles them influences workplace culture. For instance, verbal tone used to speak with colleagues impacts approachability and the overall workplace atmosphere. Consider an atmosphere where the leadership team only focuses on identifying mistakes and instructing members how to redo it right. This approach leaves members feeling devalued and decreases commitment to reach the goals. In contrast, when the leadership team incorporates appreciation and recognition for team members' contributions while suggesting areas of improvement, this leaves members motivated to improve. Moreover, this not only increases approachability but also reinforces a positive work environment. As a result, this simple act communicates to employees that their hard work did not go unnoticed but there are areas of growth they can work on in the future, which in turn leads to increased job satisfaction. On top of everything, leaders also demonstrate their commitment to appreciation, growth opportunities, and overall success of a team. Team building is a foundation for the sustained success of an organization.

Behind the success in the 12th Annual Job and Career Fair, AAEDE's achievements are driven by their coordination of reminders and deadlines among team members and extends across daily agenda setting, inquiries, and meetings. The team's commitment to effective communication contributed to their accomplishments.

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A newsletter from Asian American Economic Development Enterprise, Inc.

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