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naisA Global Celebrates the Rise of Asian-American Leadership

WASHINGTON DC, November 7, 2017 -- Asians are the fastest growing ethnic group in the United States, with an estimated \$1 trillion in purchasing power and rising political influence of more than nine million voters nationally. Nevertheless, they remain severely underrepresented in high-level leadership positions. In recognizing the gap between high-achieving Asian Americans and their representation in corporate, academic, and governmental leadership roles, naisA Global presents the **2017 NextGen Awards Gala** on Friday, November 10th.

The Gala will honor three prominent Asian American leaders: **Dr. Sachiko Kuno**, Founder & Chair of Halcyon; **Dr. Wallace Loh**, President of the University of Maryland; and **Mr. Frank Islam**, an IT entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader. Arriving in the country as immigrants from Japan, China and India, respectively, these honorees are now influential leaders and powerful sources of inspiration for new generations of leaders.

Also sharing their journeys are the winners of the Leadership Excellence Awards: **David Kim**, Vice President of Government Affairs of Hyundai Motors; **Sid Venketesan**, Chief IP Counsel GE Digital; and **Mei Xu**, Co-Founder and CEO of Chesapeake Bay Candle. The NextGen Awards Gala will also highlight two dynamic teenagers as Youth Leadership Awardees: **Kavya Koppurapu**, who founded a nonprofit to educate young girls to succeed in the STEM fields, and **Hana Mangat**, who started the youth-run organization, Sikh Kid 2 Kid, to develop a cultural and religious literacy training program.

"I am extremely proud of our accomplishments over the past few years," says **Dr. Jamie Younghee Sheen**, Founder and CEO of naisA Global, which has grown to 2,400 protégés and mentors in 53 countries over the last three years. "We could not have delivered on our mission without the support of our dedicated sponsors, contributors, and volunteers. Their encouragement and partnerships have been instrumental in moving the needle for Asian leadership representation in our nation."

The Awards Gala will bring together over 150 influential leaders—entrepreneurs, philanthropists, ambassadors, and rising stars to recognize great Asian-American role models, showcase emerging young leaders, and celebrate the rise of Asian-American leadership. The event is made possible by the generous support of CBRE, Wells Fargo, Cardinal Health, S&R Foundation, Kirkland & Ellis, Nikkei Asian Review, POSCO America, UBS, and the David and June Trone Family Foundation.

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