



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE/JACL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JACL CONGRATULATES ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNER AND INTERCOLLEGIATE NIKKEI COUNCIL AT 2010 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Chicago, IL - The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) was privileged to honor the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council with the 2010 Youth Vision Award, as well as Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie as the Minoru Yasui Oratorical Winner at its 41st Biennial National Convention, "Embracing Change," at the Swissotel in Chicago.

The Vision Award, presented at the Convention's Youth Luncheon, is awarded each year to an Asian Pacific American individual or organization who has made significant strides and whose efforts have inspired youth. This year's honoree, the Intercollegiate Nikkei Council (INC), is a coalition of various collegiate-based Japanese American student organizations throughout Southern California.

"We're extremely honored to be receiving this award from JACL. The Intercollegiate Nikkei Council works tirelessly throughout the year to build partnership, passion and encourage community service amongst our member organizations," explained Kristen Wong and Lauren Gima, representatives of INC. Gima and Wong also described the various activities carried out by INC including the ReVisions Youth Conference, the Little Tokyo Scavenger Hunt, and the Annual Children's Day event in Little Tokyo amongst many others.

This year's Youth Luncheon, sponsored by Eli Lily, provided convention delegates and community members an opportunity to learn about JACL's National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC). The NY/SC is comprised of representatives from the seven districts of the National JACL and holds the mission of addressing Japanese American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and other community issues through empowering youth and creating an avenue for community involvement

"This year, the Youth Council took a strong focus on building youth engagement in Japanese American community preservation. Our council felt that the preservation of Japantowns, local community centers and churches across the country was a passion that united all of us," explained Kimberly Shintaku, JACL's National Youth Chair.

Members of JACL's National Youth Council include: National Youth Chair Kimberly Shintaku, National Youth Representative Brandon Mita, CCDC Youth Representative Megan Ikeda, EDC Youth Representative Meilee Wong, IDC Co-Youth Representatives Stephen Heleker and Timothy Grant, MDC Youth Chair Matthew Farrells, MDC Youth Representative Stephanie Nitahara, NCWNP Youth Representative Devin Yoshikawa, PSW Youth Representative Bryan Namba, and PNW Co-Youth Representatives Kaila Yoshitomi and Mariko Newton.

This year's Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition included five candidates from across the country presenting a 3-5 minutes presentation to convention delegates and attendees. The topic for this year's competition was: "Our 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, inspired and motivated a nation with a simple word, 'change.' As our nation still faces economic turmoil, wars abroad, as well as

damaged health care and immigration systems, 'change' has never been more welcome. What can the Asian Pacific American community and the JACL do to inspire and create change to meet the needs of America's current socio-political landscape?"

The Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition is named in memory of Minoru Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist. Prior to the internment, Min Yasui tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders that were imposed against Japanese Americans. Though the Supreme Court of the United States eventually upheld the constitutionality of the curfew, Min Yasui never wavered in his pursuit of social justice for all Americans. During the 1980s, Min Yasui was an articulate voice in leading JACL's successful campaign to obtain redress for the injustice of the internment.

The JACL is pleased to recognize Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie as this year's winner. Other oratorical candidates included: Brandon Nagata, Hanayo Spitz, Matt Teshima and Mackenzie Walker; all 2010 Oratorical candidates had phenomenal speeches.

The JACL would especially like to thank All Nippon Airways (ANA), Hyatt Regency Tokyo, and Sony for providing the prizes for the oratorical contest. Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie received two round-trip tickets to Japan from ANA and 3 complimentary nights stay at the Hyatt Regency Tokyo. The runner ups received the Sony Eco-VAIO: VPC-W212AX/WI, Sony DASH - Personal Internet Device (Wifi/7" Touch Screen), Sony bloggic Camera MHS-PM5 with 8GB Memory Stick, and Sony W Series Walkman MP3 Player.

For more information on events and awards at the 2010 JACL National Convention, call the Japanese American Citizens League Washington, D.C. office at 202-223-1240 or visit our website at www.jacl.org.

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. Visit the JACL website for information or to join the organization: www.jacl.org.