



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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PRESS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON SPONSORS FELLOWSHIP FOR JACL

Los Angeles, CA - With generous support from Southern California Edison, The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) welcomes a new member to the Pacific Southwest District office. The new 2009-2010 Mike Honda Fellow, Kristin Fukushima, joined JACL in October. The position will continue and expand JACL's efforts to advocate for civil rights and community preservation through empowerment and activism.

The fellowship will be focused on JACL's advocacy and public policy awareness, programming, education and coalition building between partner community organizations. In addition to working on public policy issues relevant to the AAPI community, the fellowship will also implement programming to engage youth in community and policy. These programs include JACL's Bridging Communities, Mobilize for Policy, Mobilize for Little Tokyo, and Project Community programs; all are targeting youth, designed to train leadership and create a new generation of advocates for the community and civil rights.

Southern California Edison has a long-standing tradition of enhancing the community through its corporate giving efforts, and is particularly supportive of organizations that are deeply rooted in the community, such as the Japanese American Citizens League. The Mike Honda fellowship sponsored by the company is in honor of Congressman Mike Honda of California, and recognizes Congressman Honda's ongoing public service and commitment to civil rights issues regarding Asian American Pacific Islander communities. "We are very pleased to have this opportunity to support JACL and this fellowship program to promote civic engagement and leadership development for the Japanese American community," said Erwin Furukawa, SCE's vice president of customer programs and services.

Kristin Fukushima recently graduated from Pomona College where she studied Sociology and Asian American Studies. Kristin has previously worked with PSW as the West LA Chapter Intern and through the Nikkei Community Internship. She is also active within Little Tokyo, and is a member of the Little Tokyo advocacy organization, J-Town Voice. Kristin is particularly excited to practice new methods of community advocacy, education, and mobilization. As the fellow of JACL Pacific Southwest district, Kristin will be focusing on issues relevant to the API community in the district such as comprehensive immigration reform, and community issues in Little Tokyo.

The Japanese American Citizens League's ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of all those who are victimized by injustice and prejudice, and work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

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