

PAT FONG KUSHIDA

Biography



Pat Fong Kushida is currently the President/CEO of the Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce (SACC) serving in this capacity since 1998, and President/CEO of the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce formed in 2010. This combined entity represents the largest ethnic chamber in California today.

Through her efforts, relationships have been developed to link the most prominent API business organization to opportunities throughout the state and provide advocacy, education and outreach to a significant portion of this state's demographics, the over 600,000 Asian Pacific owned businesses in California.

Pat is known as a visionary, entrepreneurial leader who has applied these skills to help build programs that strengthen California's ethnically diverse business community and create economic development opportunities for this community to prosper. She created a technology platform to connect small, disadvantaged business enterprises to contracts in the public and private supplier diversity contract arena. This platform is currently being utilized by many private companies, as well as the California Public Utility Commission and the Department of Transportation. Through her work, the chamber has a three year contract establishing the chamber as the Small Business Transportation Resource Center serving California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. She created a separate Foundation to house each chamber's economic and workforce development, leadership, and education programs. Through this effort, the chamber won a significant contract with Covered California to sign up over 50,000 API businesses in California.

Pat's strength is forming collaborations with many community-based organizations on issues related to regional economic development to advance her community's interests. She has advocated on behalf of the chamber at the local, state and federal levels, and developed successful ongoing fund development programs to ensure chamber viability. Her work has garnered recognition from her peers and earned her the Exemplary Leadership Award from the American Leadership Forum in 2009.

Pat firmly believes in giving back to her community and serves on numerous boards and commissions and was most recently a governor appointee to the California Student Aid Commission and a former trustee for one of the largest school districts in California, the Sacramento City Unified School District serving 54,000 students.

Pat currently serves on the boards of Goodwill Industries, Sutter Health, and Golden Pacific Bank, and joined a national effort successfully forming a national chamber of commerce in 2013, the Asian Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship.