



# Aurora

A newsletter for members and friends of AE<sup>2</sup>C

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## ***Energizing Texas the AE2C Way***

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Starting with Texas State Representative Gene Wu and ending with Houston Mayor Annise Parker, AE<sup>2</sup>C energized students, professionals, friends and members on September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton Americas in downtown Houston. Over 120 people attended the conference event that launched the AE<sup>2</sup>C Texas Regional Chapter.

The conference kicked off with an employment analysis overview by AE2C's Platinum Partner, the American Petroleum Institute. Discussion of the various employment opportunities within the oil and natural gas industry set the stage for the rest of the day's sessions that underscored the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education, the role of technology in boosting economic growth, and the importance of innovation in the energy sector.

Texas State Representative Gene Wu highlighted the increased trade potential between the United States and Asia, owing to its growing need for energy, and cited China as an example. He also urged expediting the export licensing of US liquefied natural gas to non-Free Trade Agreement countries. Drawing attention to the importance of cultural understanding and eliminating stereotypes as our industry, Representative Wu observed that our city, state, and country have become more global.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker touched on the importance of cultural understanding and noted that one could spend all day in Houston and speak exclusively Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Hindu, to name a few of the many cultures that thrive in the city. She stressed the importance of investing in intellectual capital and encouraged students and young professionals to seek opportunities and to step outside of their comfort zone to succeed.

The forum ended with an energizing call to action by AE<sup>2</sup>C President, Bob Gee, who encouraged everyone to help us build a successful Texas Chapter.



## Bridging Talent, Resources and Commerce for Growth of the Energy Industry

The centralizing goal of the Energizing Texas forum was to build relationships and bridge Asian and American talent, resources and commerce to spur growth in the energy industry. While we talked about differing leadership tactics and the impact that U.S. LNG exports to Asia will have on the globalization of energy overall, the forum also addressed the role of technology in boosting domestic economic growth, the impact that science, technology, engineering and math fields play in the industry and its growth, and how innovative products, services and business models will affect the unique role Asia plays as an investor and competitor in energy technology.



- + The energy sector is one of the last major sectors to spur innovation and technology.
- + Math is the language for all other sciences and engineering. Without a good foundation, students will struggle so STEM is especially important in secondary schools.
- + R&D funds are going down in most energy sector companies, however that can be overcome by M&A asset trading and pushing innovation by acquiring talent.

### An Energizing start for AE<sup>2</sup>C Texas *(Thoughts from Bob Gee)*

The Houston conference set the stage for growth of AE2c not just in Houston or Texas but across the United States. Three themes emerged from this forum and will remain in the forefront of our activities.



**Resources:** Just as energy resources are in abundance, and we have an opportunity to produce and use them in a positive way, consistent with environmental stewardship, the Asian American community also has vast human resources that need to be developed.

**Inclusiveness:** Asian Americans already play a role, but we need to do more. We need to have more members of our community in the senior management and governance of business enterprises, and growing new leadership.

**Giving back:** Many of us are immigrants by choice to this country. One way to give back is to become part of a highly trained workforce that contributes to our community and economy. In addition to those who immigrated to this country, those who were born here, or who are more experienced, should give back by becoming mentors, paving the way for their career ascension.

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