



# Aurora

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

[www.ae2c.org](http://www.ae2c.org) / [info@ae2c.org](mailto:info@ae2c.org)

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## ***From the Year of the Horse through the Year of the Sheep to the Year of the Monkey ... ... What's been happening with AE2C?***

The year of the Horse was supposed to be hectic, fast-moving and filled with great energy... and it certainly was that for AE2C! The horse year 2014 kicked off with a Lunar New Year celebration in Washington DC and honored Asian Pacific Islander Heritage month in a joint program with the Department of Energy featuring Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. From there, AE2C went to Houston, Texas to energize Texas and from there, to Los Angeles to energize California. Wow, what a year!

Our Sheep Year 2015 was one of quiet working, taking advantage of the calm atmosphere of sheep years, but appreciating the groundwork laid in 2014 which enabled the organization to grow. The “energizing” events in Houston and Los Angeles were the start of our growth outside the Washington, D.C. area. And although Washington, D.C. will always be our home base, we look to the various regions of our country to give us the momentum for the Year of the Monkey.

We kicked off 2015 in Washington, D.C with a Lunar New Year luncheon hosted by Chadbourne and Parke, LLP with Dr. Howard Gruenspecht, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Energy Information Administration as the featured speaker. Dr. Gruenspecht engaged the group of 40 attendees with his outlook for the global and U.S. oil and gas industry and its potential impacts.

In May, we were honored to have Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Management at the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ms. Janice Dunn Lee, as our keynote speaker. This luncheon event was hosted by the North American Representative to the Asian Development Bank, Mr. Craig Steffensen. Ms. Dunn Lee provided her perspectives on nuclear energy policy and a behind the scenes look at the international nuclear regulatory processes of the International Atomic Energy Agency. (Continued on page 3)

## MARK YOU CALENDAR

May is Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage month  
Plan to attend the first joint AE2C and Energy Bar Association (EBA) Heritage month event featuring a prominent Asian American energy leader

**The first week of May**  
**Hosted by Dentons at 1900 K Street, NW.**

More details coming soon



**Congratulations...**

... to AE2C founding member **Dr. Margaret Chu** for being nominated as a Department of Energy Minorities In Energy (MIE) 2015-16 program ambassador. Margaret joins AE2C president Bob Gee and many other energy industry notables who have served as MIE Ambassadors. The DOE MIE program was established in 2013 to begin a dialogue on the position of minority communities as it relates to the Department of Energy and the energy sector overall. The MIE initiative seeks to engage minority communities, job seekers and business owners in the rapidly expanding energy sector by increasing awareness, building capacity and uncovering policy solutions to overcome the challenges of these communities to fully engage in energy. MIE Ambassadors are leaders who have committed to lending their voice to the mission of the MIE Initiative and as such, will include speaking engagements on STEM Education and workforce development, energy economic development and climate change.

### What is LEAPcareer?

Leadership, Excellence, Aspiration and Platform (LEAP) is a career development forum series launched in early 2013, co-founded by the Chinese-American Engineers and Scientists Association of Southern California (CESASC) and the Southwestern Chinese Students and Scholars Association (SWCSSA). LEAP workshops, conferences and seminars provide a professional networking platform for Chinese-American professionals throughout their careers. For more information, go to [www.leapcareer.org](http://www.leapcareer.org) or contact them at [askleap@leapcareer.org](mailto:askleap@leapcareer.org)



### Monkey (Continued from page 1)

To support our mission to build relationships and foster professional growth opportunities, we worked with the American Petroleum Institute (API) on two major initiatives. The first was to connect API and the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS). Building on this base, AE2C facilitated initial discussions and API entered an agreement with APAICS to sponsor a 2015-2016 ten-month congressional fellowship for an Asian American student awardee to intern and participate in various congressional offices and departments focusing on national energy policy. The second initiative is an ongoing participation in the API Study Group on Workforce Development. This API initiative includes AE2C, and other DOE Minorities In Energy partners, and focuses on minorities in the oil and gas industry. At the end of 2015 and to date, AE2C provided input on career development and challenges facing Asian Americans in the industry which will be included in the 2016 report. (continued)

Since our Energizing Texas event in September 2014, AE2C has established a strong and strategic relationship with the University of Houston (UH), working primarily with the Vice Chancellor of Technology Transfer and Professor Steven Pei to establish a pilot effort for energy technology commercialization. This effort includes the U.S. DOE and is expected to continue for several years.

The Texas Region has been active not just in Houston, but in Austin as well. Under the leadership of AE2C president Bob Gee and Caitlin Smith, AE2C organized several events throughout 2015 including a Lunar New Year event featuring Gene Wu, State Representative of District 137 and member of the Texas House Energy Resource Committee. State Representative Wu spoke about energy issues facing the then current legislative session to more than 30 motivated attendees. A second breakfast discussion was held in partnership with the Alliance for Energy Policy and the University of Texas Energy Club. This discussion about the new developments and challenges of Cleantech innovation featured Erik Funkhouser from Research into Action and Varun Sivaram the Douglas Dillon Fellow at Council on Foreign Relations.

Certainly, Texas was not the only state that was invigorated by AE2C in 2014-15. Our relationships in Southern California have remained strong, especially in the areas of mentoring and career development for students and young professionals, aligning with our overall mission. As part of our partnership with LEAPcareer, we worked throughout 2015 to develop a mentoring program in the energy industry and held an event in Los Angeles on STEM, career development and mentoring in January of this year. This initial session, sponsored by Southern California Edison, identified and linked students and mentors. These student/mentor relationships will be measured based on matrixed criteria throughout the next few months and results will be shared in June. This year, we will continue to grow our relationships with Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas. Both companies have provided much needed support when we expanded our reach into California, and they continue to boost us into the future.

And so, we enter the Year of the Monkey – a year that is supposed to be tumultuous, full of energy and unsettled. Yet, it is predicted to be a year where trade between the Asia Pacific countries and the United States will increase, despite a sluggish economy and decreasing oil prices. For AE2C, the Year of the Monkey is sure to be positive and full of opportunity for new and growing relationships, in Washington, D.C., Texas, California, and wherever else the monkey leads us.

## **Thank You to our Partners, Sponsors and Friends**

All the energizing in 2014 allowed AE2C to form numerous friendships throughout the United States. We thank our partners and sponsors for their support and our members and friends for their participation and volunteerism. AE2C could not be successful without you and for that we are grateful.

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