

**This program speaks to the very core of the AAGEN mission …**

*Excerpt from the Welcoming Remarks from Tommy Hwang, AAGEN Chair*

This program speaks to the very core of the AAGEN mission, which is to help AAPIs break through the bamboo ceiling and advance to the senior levels of government.

I'm proud to get this program off the ground today!

I am so proud of you for being here!  I know it wasn't easy...

There were 119 applications from 25 agencies, including 5 DOD components

The 20 selectees came from 12 different agencies.  There were so many qualified candidates - I wish we could have selected more!

I have read each of your applications and am truly impressed by the talent assembled!

We want to inspire you, to prod you, to mentor you and to be a model for you.  If those of us whoe are SESers in the room here today can do it, so can you!

We hope you succeed and then pass along the success to other AAPIs.