# **Opening Remarks**

#### Speakers:

**Dr. Karen Umemoto:** Professor in the Departments of Urban Planning and Asian American Studies + Director of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center

**Dr.** Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris: Interim Dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning, and a core faculty member of the UCLA Urban Humanities Initiative

**Congresswoman Judy Chu**: U.S. representative for California's 28th congressional district and Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

**Dr. Richard Pan:** Former California State Senator and Former Chair of the California AAPI Legislative Caucus

## Video #1: U.S. Birthright Citizenship

- Fredrick Douglas and Wong Kim Ark
  - Former Slave Fredrick Douglas spoke up for Chinese Immigrants
    - Chinese Exclusion Act, Chinese as the first undocumented immigrants
  - Wong Kim Ark fought for Birthright Citizenship as a Chinese American
- These two fought for our rights today
- Despite these constitutional rights, there is still work to be done

#### **Speaker #1: Professor Umemoto**

- We are here to talk about policy, but policy does not happen without narrative change, collaboration between policy, academics, and creative arts (in reference to the previous video).
- There are over 315 registrants for the Policy Summit over a variety of sectors
  - Policymakers, faculty, students, community organizers, thinking about solutions to today's problems
- Goals of the Summit
  - Seek <u>actionable solutions</u> through policy
  - Orient research and tools towards the AAPI community
  - Open up opportunities for collaboration

## Speake #2: Dr. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris

- UCLA as a land grant institution, acknowledging the sacrifices of the Gabrelino Tongva people
- UCLA is a place of learning, an interdisciplinary yet unified academic unit in Los Angeles, in California, around globe, that educates students for public service who affect the lives of those in our communities
- UCLA employs a <u>framework of social justice</u>, the desire to improve
  - We hope to find a common purpose where we can combat complex issues and lead to actionable policy solution
- At this Policy Summit, we are not simply returning to the way things were before the pandemic, but carving out a new, better path that leads to the way things should be
  - We can create more equitable institutions, stop hate, otherness, brutality, violence
  - Society should be built on social justice for all, so we need to enact fair, more inclusive policies that <u>lift up and celebrate the contributions of the AANHPI communities</u>
- California is known as a place of innovation, we have the fortune to do our work in LA, home of the largest communities of immigrants,
- UCLA is a place where diverse perspectives are welcome as new ideas form, a place where smart people can come together to create solutions that can be tested and perfected, solutions that can change the world

## Speaker #3: Judy Chu (video recording)

- This Policy Summit is a great opportunity for our communities to gather together and collaborate on building solutions for an equitable future
- There used to be a time where Asian Americans were invisible in the capital, but today we have 21 AAPIs in congress, reflects the diversity of the AAPI community
  - She is the Chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) all-time record of 77 Members
  - Proud to lead this caucus, which has leveraged our community's power on Capitol Hill to advocated the needs of AAPI's across the country
- CAPAC has Achieved major accomplishments in the past year:
  - successfully advocated for AAPI appointments in federal government
  - Passed <u>legislation to combat Anti-AAPI hate</u>, <u>COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act</u> and the <u>AAPI Museum Studies Bill</u> signed into law by President Biden
  - Push back against the racial profiling of Asian scientists, ended the China Initiative
  - Remove anti-Asian provisions in the sciences, bolstering our nation's competitiveness does not come at the expense of civil rights of Asian Americans
- CAPAC succeeded because our communities have a seat at the table in Congress, which comes through the consistent engagement of individuals who push forward AAPI communities in California
- CAPAC wants to hear more about and advocate for at the federal level the solutions that we develop
- The work done at this Summit, from the time and effort to the critical discussions, lay the groundwork for CAPAC's advocacy
- This Summit fosters the collaboration between advocates, academics, and elected officials to uphold the policies that our communities need to thrive

## Speaker #4: Dr. Richard Pan

- The Role of the California API Legislative Caucus is to expand influence of the AAPI community and AAPI policy
- Despite record participation numbers, Asian Americans are still underrepresented in government
- COVID-19 produce the <u>tragedy of and anti-Asian hate and the opportunity for our community to mobilize</u> and raise attention for our needs
- One of our challenges is a lack of visibility in American Society
  - As a Pediatrician, he recognizes the lack of AAPI outcomes in medical research and other dataoriented papers, which leads to underrepresentation in legislation
- In 2021, we rallied and convinced the state to support our communities
  - led to the API equity budget of \$166.5 Million
    - This budget is just a start, need to sustain funding
  - Passing of legislation requiring ethnic studies
    - Hope to provide resources for teachers through a <u>multimedia textbook</u>
- We need to bring our questions and ideas, connect and network, because coming together makes things happen
- We vote, we matter, we make a difference, it's not just about the speakers it's about all of us participating in the Policy Summit

#### **Speaker #5: Professor Umemoto (closing statements)**

- We are hopeful that the worst of Covid-19 is over, but we will never forget what we went through
- This will not be the last pandemic
- The university must play a role in getting out of the pandemic and making sure that the solutions provide an equitable recovery

- Policy Summit activities focus on pandemic recovery, providing data and research tools for policymakers, communities, and advocates
  - Seed the beginnings of multimedia textbook
  - Showcase projects and works created by faculty and students
    - MAP: Mapping Asian American Political Potential
    - Interactive dashboard that tracks 19 years of hate crime date in LA county
- None of this would be possible without the AAPI legislative Caucus, community and campus partners

# Video #2: Solidarity and the May 19th project

- Black and Asian activists against police brutality
- Blacks and Asians can and have been supporting each other through racism
  - Hmong Americans for BLM
- Asian issues are Black issues, Black issues are Asian issues
- We must be advocates for all