

For Immediate Press Release
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Jim Towey and Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh to deliver keynote speeches

Washington D.C.—The National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA) today confirms the list of key speakers and special guests for its 2003 National Conference in Orange, California from July 24-26, 2003 at the Doubletree Hotel/Anaheim. Devoted to strengthening organization capacity for its members including faith-based organizations (FBOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), NAVASA has garnered a roster of distinguished guest speakers and experienced presenters.

Representing the White House, Jim Towey, Presidential Deputy Assistant and Director of the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives (FBCIs), will open the keynote speech and address how the Administration can assist FBOs and CBOs to build capacity and expand their social services. Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh, Director of Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) will close out the keynote speech, specifically emphasizing the commitment of the Department of Health & Human Services and ORR in particular. The luncheon keynote from Benjamin Wu, Deputy Under-Secretary for Technology at the U.S. Department of Commerce, will update the current issues of technology and provide directions bridging the gap of the digital divides among the Asian American communities.

NAVASA has confirmed the following guest speakers: Dr. Ho Luong Tran (President/CEO of Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum), Dr. John J. Tuskan, Jr. (Director of Refugee Mental Health Program of SAMHSA), Thuan Nguyen (Chief of California Refugee Branch), and Ms. Madison Nguyen (Board of Education, Franklin-McKinley School District).

The conference will mark a historical move by NAVASA in forming the Leadership Institute as twelve young professionals will be recognized for their contribution to community services. NAVASA, its affiliates, and the invited representatives from successful organizations across the country will help mentor these young professionals through the Institute.

NAVASA will recognize influential and prominent leaders for their tireless dedication to the Vietnamese American community at the conference Recognition Banquet. Key honorees include Vietnamese benefactor Tran Dinh Truong, former Assistant Attorney General Dinh Viet, and Professor Le Xuan Khoa. Entertainment will be provided by singers Cong Thanh & Lynn, Tuan Ngoc, Luu Bich, Thien Kim, Da Nhat Yen, Thai Thao, the Moon Flowers Band, and youth traditional dancers. Celebrity Nguyen Nam Loc and Leyna Nguyen of KCBS and KCAL-TV (CA) will emcee the banquet.

For a complete list of speakers, guests, and registration information, please visit our website at: www.navasa.org.

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NAVASA is a national advocacy agency currently comprised of 34 mutual assistance associations (MAAs). Since its incorporation in 1995 as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, NAVASA has promoted economic self-sufficiency and active citizenship for Vietnamese-Americans through full participation in the socio-political system. Located in metropolitan Washington DC, NAVASA is fully committed to assisting its affiliate organizations to address the civic, economic, linguistic, and social needs facing community members in their specific localities.

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