The SASE Leadership Awards were established to celebrate technical accomplishments and advancements in the fields of science, engineering and technology and to recognize exemplary leadership in the SASE community, including volunteerism.

Determining the award winners was an arduous process. A committee of organizational and SASE representatives met regularly to establish rules and guidelines to ensure that the process was fair and transparent. Each individual nomination had to include a CV, bio, resume, essays and letters of recommendation. A total of 30 judges volunteered to review the nominations! This year SASE is recognizing ten individuals across 8 categories and two organizations.

There is a wide range of levels and types of support organizations provide their AAPI employees. Some do a particularly good job at providing effective programs and services. SASE is presenting two awards this year to recognize organizational excellence and leadership. This year these awards are being presented to Raytheon (Organization of the Year, Company) and Tennessee Valley Authority (Organization of the Year, Government).

The 2019 SASE Leadership Awards will be presented at SASE’s 2019 National Conference and STEM Career Fair, during the Friday evening Gala Dinner, October 11th, at the David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA.

“"To me, all SASE Leadership Award candidates have these things in common. It is breaking the ceiling, leveling the playing field and being the symbol of equality.”"

—Jacky-Vy Chau, Awards Committee Chair
SASE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

SASE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
(Company)

Raytheon

One global company creating trusted, innovative solutions to make the world a safer place. Raytheon Company is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cybersecurity solutions. Founded in 1922, Raytheon provides state-of-the-art electronics, mission systems integration, capabilities in C5I (command, control, communications, computing, cyber and intelligence), sensing, effects and mission support services. Raytheon is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts.

“We embrace diversity and diverse opinions; we treat people with dignity and respect to support our inclusive culture. This allows us to retain and attract the world-class talent and supplier base we need to develop the innovative solutions our global customers depend on. We view our diversity as a competitive advantage as a key enabler of our growth.”

— Thomas A. Kennedy, Raytheon Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

SASE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR
(Government)

Tennessee Valley Authority

Established in 1933 as part of the TVA Act, the Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States government that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving 10 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

SASE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

Mr. Dennis Hirotsu
Retired Vice President of R&D
Procter & Gamble

Dennis’ 35-year R&D career spanned multiple P&G businesses; Baby Care, Femcare, Household Cleaners, and Hair Color. His global experience includes 13 years located in Asia building P&G’s Baby and Fem business in the region, and the launch of Ultrathin diapers in Europe. Dennis also led innovation capability for the R&D function reporting to P&G’s Chief Innovation and Technology Officer. Dennis supported the API community as the executive sponsor for APIs in R&D. Dennis previously served on the SASE Board, and currently is an Executive Advisor for SASE following his retirement from P&G in 2016.
SASE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

Dr. Malina Hills
Senior Vice President, Space Systems Group
The Aerospace Corporation

Dr. Hills is responsible for the company’s support to all launch programs, ground networks, and satellite programs overseen by the U.S. Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center, support to Navy satellite programs, and support to the Missile Defense Agency. Previous roles include former vice president, Space Program Operations; former general manager, MILSATCOM Division; and former general manager, Systems Engineering Division. Dr. Hills earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering and applied science from Yale University, and a doctorate in chemical engineering from the California Institute of Technology.

SASE ENGINEER / SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR (COMPANY)

Dr. Thomas Bui
Enterprise Domain Leader – Senior Technical Fellow, Boeing Research & Technology
The Boeing Company

Dennis’ 35-year R&D career spanned multiple P&G businesses; Baby Care, Femcare, Household Cleaners, and Hair Color. His global experience includes 13 years located in Asia building P&G’s Baby and Fem business in the region, and the launch of Ultrathin diapers in Europe. Dennis also led innovation capability for the R&D function reporting to P&G’s Chief Innovation and Technology Officer. Dennis supported the API community as the executive sponsor for APIs in R&D. Dennis previously served on the SASE Board, and currently is an Executive Advisor for SASE following his retirement from P&G in 2016.

SASE ENGINEER / SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR (GOVERNMENT)

Dr. James Joo
Senior Aerospace Engineer
Air Force Research Laboratory, US Air Force

University with a BS in Machine Design & Production Engineering in 1994. He later earned M.S. & Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan in 1997 & 2001. He has been the author or co-author of over 75 scholarly publications including journal articles, technical papers, book chapters, and patents. In 2014 Dr. Joo was the recipient of the AF Civilian Achievement Award (2014), AFRL Innovation Award (2014) and Dr. Richard B. Rivir Scientific and Technical Achievement (2013).
Dr. Guijun Wang
Technical Fellow/Chief Enterprise Architect-Digital Manufacturing, Manufacturing Operations
The Boeing Company

Guijun Wang is a Senior Technical Fellow and an Enterprise Architect at Boeing leading the digital manufacturing, manufacturing operations management, advanced manufacturing and robotics, factory automation, Internet of Things, and Digital Twin enterprise technical strategies, capabilities, architectures, and technologies. He also has extensive research and development experience in large scale mission-critical distributed systems. He is recipient of the 2017 Asian American Engineer of the Year award. He holds 17 patents and has 45 publications in journals, conferences and books. He received a PhD in computer science from the University of Kansas.

Ms. Veronika Andrews
Project Management Specialist, Boeing Commercial Airplanes
The Boeing Company

Veronika grew up in Solo, Indonesia, and earned a Bachelors in Political Science from the Sebelas Maret University of Indonesia. After moving to the US, Veronika earned her Master’s in International Business from University of Phoenix. She joined the Boeing Company in 2008 as a contractor and now is a Project Manager and a Subject Metier Expert for Engineering Scheduler. Veronika is deeply committed to promote and advocate diversity in the workplace and in her community. She is the President of Boeing Asian Professional Association (BAPA) and actively supports, volunteers and mentors others in the APPI (Asian-American Pacific Islanders) and STEM field. Because of that, Boeing honored her with its Global Diversity and Inclusion Award. Veronika sums up the importance of diversity, saying, “Different perspectives lead to more innovation, more opportunity for all, better access to talent, and better business performance.”

Ms. Kathy Moon
Director, Information Technology
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Kathy Moon has twenty-five years of diverse experience ranging from software development for space vehicles to leading mergers and acquisition of high technology companies. She is proud of her successful track record of leading cross-functional teams to superior performances. She served as the vice president of business development for companies in Canada, Belgium and Korea. Kathy received her BA in mathematics from Occidental College and MS in Computer Science from the University of Southern California. She completed executive management programs from Northwestern University and Stanford University. She is a Project Management Professional, Certified Enterprise Architect and Strategic Marketing Executive.
Ms. Kristina Horita
Government Supply Chain Services Program Integrator,
Boeing Global Services
The Boeing Company

Kristina (Kristi) Horita works for The Boeing Company as the Government Supply Chain Services Program Integrator focused on building alignment between the engineering resources and program requirements. She received her Bachelors of Science from Virginia Tech studying Mechanical Engineering and is currently pursuing a MBA from Washington University in St. Louis Olin Business School. As a student, she worked at NASA, Orbital Sciences Corporation, General Electric Aviation, and Toyota. Horita has a long history of involvement with SASE and finished her term as Board of Directors Membership Representative in July. For fun, she enjoys painting and hanging out with friends.

Dr. Mahmud Hussain
Senior Scientist
BASF Corporation

Dr. Mahmud Hussain is a senior scientist at BASF Corporation in Wyandotte, Michigan. Internationally recognized for his accomplishments in the fields of chemical synthesis of medically and industrially useful complex organic chemicals as well as development of novel chemical reactions, Dr. Hussain’s work has been published in numerous publications and garnered multiple awards including the Sottery Award for Excellence in Chemistry and Siegel Memorial Prize in Science. Additionally, Dr. Hussain is listed as an inventor in nine patents. Dr. Hussain earned a PhD in organic chemistry from Univ. of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hussain was a Howard Hughes postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University.

Dr. Vinita Yadav
Technical Service and Development Scientist
The Dow Chemical Company

Vinita Yadav was awarded her Ph.D. from Penn State University in 2015 focusing on nanoscale colloids. She then joined Dow as a Senior Engineer working on new product development and has since helped in expanding the adhesives business by > $10 MM through new innovation. She has co-authored >15 peer reviewed publications including a book chapter with the Nobel Laureate Gerhard Ertl. She also has 7 patent applications and Six Sigma green belt certification. She is also very passionate about new employee development, coaching, mentoring & STEM education. Outside of work, she loves hiking, trekking and spending time outdoors.