

2021 SASE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The SASE Leadership Awards recognize exemplary leadership and volunteerism, and celebrate technical accomplishments and advancements in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Through these awards, SASE honors organizations and individuals who have made impactful contributions to the global business world, academia, and their local communities.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

SASE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR (COMPANY)

This award recognizes a private-sector company that has demonstrated significant contributions to the scientific and/or engineering professions as well as a long-standing commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace. In the past year, this company has devoted outstanding support, advocacy and services to address the development and advancement of diversity with a focus on the AAPI community.



bp

bp's ambition is to become a net zero company by 2050 or sooner, and to help the world get to net zero. bp is America's largest energy investor since 2005, investing more than \$125 billion in the economy and supporting more than 125,000 additional jobs through its business activities. For more information on bp in the U.S., visit bp.com/us.

SASE ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR (GOVERNMENT)

This award recognizes a public-sector, academic or nonprofit organization that has demonstrated significant contributions to the scientific and/or engineering professions as well as a long-standing commitment to cultural diversity and inclusion in the workplace. In the past year, this organization has devoted outstanding support, advocacy, and services to address the development and advancement of diversity with a focus on the AAPI community.



Department of the Air Force

The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win...airpower anytime, anywhere. The United States Air Force is a trusted and reliable joint partner with our sister services known for integrity in all of our activities, including supporting the joint mission first and foremost. We provide compelling air, space and cyber capabilities for use by the combatant commanders. We excel as stewards of all Air Force resources in service to the American people, while providing precise and reliable Global Vigilance, Reach and Power for the nation.

SASE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD



This award recognizes seasoned professionals with more than 25 years of professional experience who hold or have held executive-level management positions. Award recipients have made significant contributions to the growth and advancement of engineering, science, or technology. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.



Pradeep Jain

Dow Corporate Fellow | Dow

Pradeep Jain is internationally recognized as a leading process technology expert in ethylene and alpha-olefin polymerization. At Dow, his research led to breakthrough, proprietary technologies and products that have garnered acclaim for their commercial and societal impact. Pradeep holds 40 U.S. patents, many publications, and a chapter in Perry's Chemical Engineering Handbook. He is a recipient of the American Chemical Society's 2015 Heroes of Chemistry and American Institute of Chemical Engineers' 2014 Process Development Practice awards. Pradeep earned a Bachelor of Technology in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Varanasi, and a Master's from the University of New Mexico.

SASE EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR



This award recognizes seasoned professionals in executive-level management positions with more than 10 years of professional experience in their fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering and science through their engagement and contributions to SASE and/or the AAPI community. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.



Edward Gerding

Vice President and Chief Engineer | Boeing Global Services

Ed Gerding is currently vice president and chief engineer for various businesses within Boeing's Global Services business unit. Gerding is responsible for performance and first-time quality across all engineering disciplines, a total of approximately 4,500 engineers. Gerding has worked in a variety of aircraft, rotorcraft, and space programs. Included were an international assignment to support F-15 co-production, and a relocation to Boeing South Carolina to lead 787 affordability. Gerding holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Washington University, and a Master of Business Administration from Maryville University.

SASE EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR



This award recognizes young professionals who graduated less than five years ago. Award recipients are already succeeding in their respective professions through significant and measurable accomplishments, have demonstrated the qualities of a leader, and are highly regarded within their organizations and communities. They are also active SASE Professional members or active leaders in the AAPI community.



Nicole Alexandra Carpentier

Component Evaluation & Failure Analysis Team Lead | Boeing Satellite Systems

Nicole is currently the Component Evaluation and Failure Analysis Team Lead for Boeing Satellite Systems in El Segundo, California. She oversees a team of eight engineers specialized in troubleshooting, anomaly characterization, and failure analysis of electronic components. Her team works with a multitude of different customers within Boeing and supports various space and defense programs. Nicole has a Master of Science in Materials Engineering from UCLA and specializes in tin whiskers and fractography. Nicole has also been a metallurgical engineer for forging suppliers of jet engine components. In her spare time, Nicole enjoys traveling, hiking, piano, and drawing Disney characters.

SASE ENGINEER/SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR (COMPANY)



This award recognizes professionals in the private sector who have made significant and measurable contributions within their engineering or science fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering or science, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.



Ajith Kumar

Vice President Technology - Innovation | Wabtec Corporation

Affectionately referred to as the “father of the AC Locomotive,” Ajith Kumar has been a force of innovation over his 49-year-long career. With 354 patents to his name to date, he is currently just seven shy of Wabtec’s company founder and legendary engineer George Westinghouse. At Wabtec, Ajith holds the role of Vice President Technology - Innovation. AJ was instrumental in developing a brand-new propulsion system for locomotives, taking standard DC systems of the time and introducing AC technology, and developing Trip Optimizer. Most recently, AJ supported the development of the world’s first 100% battery locomotive, the FLXdrive.

SASE ENGINEER/SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR (GOVERNMENT)



This award recognizes professionals in a public-sector, academic or nonprofit organization who have made significant and measurable contributions within their fields. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of engineering or science, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.



Dr. Danhong Huang

Principal Research Physicist | Space Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory

Dr. Danhong Huang received physics B.S. and M.S. degrees from Shanghai University of Science and Technology in 1984 and 1987, and a Ph.D. degree from Fudan University in 1990. He was a Canadian Postdoctoral Fellow from 1990 to 1993, Research Assistant Professor of Wayne-State University from 1993 to 1995, NRC Research Fellow of Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) from 1995 to 1997, and AFRL contractor from 1997 to 2001. He was AFRL Research Scientist from 2001 to 2006, Senior Research Scientist from 2007 to 2014, and has been Principal Research Scientist since 2015. He has more than 270 publications in peer-reviewed journals. His research interests include many-body theory and semiconductor physics. Dr. Huang is a 2011 Fellow of American Physical Society and 2012 AFRL Fellow.

SASE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR



This award recognizes professionals in information technology who have made significant and measurable contributions within the field. Award recipients have shown consistent dedication and commitment to the growth and advancement of information technology, and they are recognized subject matter experts in their fields or industries. They are leaders within their organizations and display outstanding commitment to their communities through mentorship or support of other individuals in the STEM field.



Ki H. Lee

Vice President | Booz Allen Hamilton

Ki Lee is a senior executive with 25 years of Enterprise Modernization/Transformation, Integration and IT Innovation experience, adept at identifying and synthesizing horizontal market conditions/patterns, developing integrated strategic plans and executing tactical delivery to advance client missions. He is a functional leader for Digital/Analytics, focused on applying emerging technologies. Currently, focus areas include Digital Transformation, Operationalizing “AI” and Edge Computing. Mr. Lee received a B.S. and Master of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Fluid Mechanics from Cornell University.

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SASE ADVOCATE AWARD



This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to promoting diversity, inclusion and the advancement of AAPI professionals. These individuals are valued mentors and sponsors of AAPI professionals and are champions of success for our SASE members.



Karen Lieu Base

Director, Enterprise Technical Risks | Booz Allen Hamilton

Karen Base is a computer scientist who entered the technical world when there were not many Asian women in the field. She was inspired to pursue that path, despite known challenges, by mentor engineers during her gap years; the most prominent of them was a brilliant Asian scientist from MIT, Dr. Louie. Channeling Dr. Louie's influence, she found joy in helping aspiring Asian technologists and pushes for a supportive message of "you can have it all" to Asian professionals, especially women. She has made elevating Asians in STEM her passion and enjoys seeing fellow Asians succeed in extraordinary ways.

SASE SERVICE IMPACT AWARDS



This award recognizes individuals who have made significant and measurable contributions to their communities through volunteerism. These individuals exemplify inspirational leadership and initiative through accomplishments such as teaching, coaching, organizing, serving on boards and committees, and other leadership roles. Their volunteer work has made a positive impact on the AAPI community.



Faisal Khan

Product Management Operations Leader | GE Aviation

Faisal Khan is the product management operations leader for GE Aviation, Aero derivative Engines Operation, based in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has held roles of increasing responsibility at GE, including leading aircraft engine services growth in Asia and launch of greenfield sites in China and Malaysia. Prior to GE, Faisal worked at Pratt & Whitney, where he graduated from the elite Core Leadership Development Program. Faisal received his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stony Brook University, New York, and MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York. He is a certified Six Sigma Black Belt. Faisal has been leading GE's engagement with SASE since 2010.



Dr. Binghui Li

Technology Integration Manager | Shell Oil Company

Dr. Binghui (Bing) Li received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Tulane University and is a Technology Integration Manager at Shell. His career spans university teaching, refinery and chemical operations, R&D, and process techno-economic evaluations. Bing has led various ERGs and community events in and out of Shell to promote D&I, cultural awareness, recruitment and retention. For SASE, he has served not only at the national level, but also at the regional and chapter levels. He is passionate about helping others and has led many workshops, mentoring circles, resume critique, mock interviews and networking events. His mentorship and coaching have helped many people in their personal and career development.