



## **ASIAN COUNSELING and REFERRAL SERVICE**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **ACRS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT IN 2018**

*Diane Narasaki of Asian Counseling and Referral Service will retire in October 2018 after two decades at the helm of social justice driven health and human service agency located in Seattle's Rainier Valley.*

SEATTLE, WA—After 22 years of service to Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) as its executive director, Diane Narasaki is announcing her retirement, effective October 27, 2018, when the agency will celebrate its 45th anniversary.

The ACRS Board of Directors has appointed a special committee that is leading the search for the new executive director of a social justice agency that reaches over 30,000 community members each year. During Narasaki's tenure, ACRS has grown to meet the evolving needs of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and many others by expanding its culturally competent behavioral health, human services and civic engagement activities, and its staff, who collectively speak over 40 languages and dialects at and beyond its 82,500 square foot facility in the Rainier Valley that has become a second home to many.

Board President Angelie Chong shares, "Diane has inspired truly collaborative leadership that strengthens our civil and human rights, and builds power with engagement from staff, clients and other community members. As co-founder of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of Washington State and through her service on numerous leadership and advisory groups, Diane has enabled ACRS to have an impact locally and nationally, and we are poised to continuing doing so in the future. Diane has worked tirelessly to ensure that ACRS is a safe and welcoming place for all, where we can develop deeper understanding through dialogue and appreciation for the strength of our diversity."

Diane reflects, "Even during these turbulent times we live in, ACRS remains a strong and healthy organization, led by dedicated, talented and generous board members, staff and volunteers. With leadership at all levels of the organization, deep community support, and local and national partnerships, ACRS will continue to thrive into the future. It has been my greatest honor and privilege to have served as ACRS' executive director over these many years. I am announcing my retirement with nearly a year's advance notice to ensure a smooth leadership transition for one of our community's flagship organizations. ACRS has an exciting future ahead of it, and I look forward to seeing it unfold under its visionary and able leadership. I hope you will join me in celebrating ACRS' 45th anniversary at our gala on October 27, 2018."

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**Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)** offers hope and opportunity in over 40 languages and dialects. We provide one door through which AAPIs of many generations -- immigrant, refugee, or American born -- can find the resources they need. We help transform the lives of families and individuals by helping people feed their loved ones, find jobs, access resources, gain English language and work skills, become American citizens, recover from addiction, and achieve mind and body wellness. We serve seniors and people with disabilities, and connect youth with job training and leadership development opportunities while ensuring that they and their families receive the support they need to succeed in a new land. We support Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and other underserved populations with advocating on behalf of themselves and their communities about issues that matter most to them. For more information, visit [www.acrs.org](http://www.acrs.org).