



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER HONORS TWO EXEMPLARY FILIPINO-AMERICANS FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AND LABOR RIGHTS



L-R: Cultural Officer Noly Dulay, Professor Anna Guevarra, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Atty. Don Villar and Consul Ryan Gener (photo: Sharon P. Howard-Garchitorena)

Chicago, 17 May 2019 – As part of the celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, two distinguished Filipino-Americans were recognized by Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs for outstanding leadership and commitment in their respective fields.

Dr. Anna Romina Guevarra, multi-awarded Associate Professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago (UIC) and Founding Director of the UIC Global Asian Studies Program, was recognized for Outstanding Commitment in Education. Her work is devoted to immigrant and transnational labor, geopolitics of carework, critical diaspora studies, and community engagement as they relate to dynamics of race, gender and empire. She shared her journey as a Filipino-American product of the public school system who was now passionate about teaching and advocating for immigrant and women's rights.

Atty. Don Villar, award-winning veteran broadcast news journalist, union leader, community activist and lawyer, was cited for Outstanding Service in Workforce and Labor. He previously won an Emmy award for breaking news coverage. As President of the CWA Illinois Unified Council and NABET-CWA Local 41, a Chicago union of broadcast news and TV production workers, he fights for the rights of workers, negotiates collective bargaining agreements, handles grievances and arbitration, and responds to workplace issues affecting union members. He continues to strive for social justice and upholding the dignity and value of workers, just as his father did in advocating for better wages and benefits for bank workers in the Philippines.

State Treasurer Frerichs, a strong supporter of immigration, recognized the unique contributions Asian and Pacific Islanders have made to the United States. He stated that the country offers opportunities for success to hardworking people regardless of race. Given the hardships that have been overcome by the Asian and Pacific communities, he noted that the success stories and valuable leadership of the awardees must be celebrated.

Ami Ghandi, Director of Voting Rights and Civic Empowerment at the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, served as Keynote Speaker. Other awardees were Beverly Kim Clark, Chef and Co-Owner of Parachute Restaurant; Irene Jisun Sohn, Executive Director of Hanul Family Alliance; State Representative Theresa Mah of the Second District of Illinois; and Tommy Shimoda, a Special Olympics athlete.

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago congratulated the awardees for their important achievements and the worthiness of their advocacies. The Consulate graced the occasion with representatives from the Consulates of China, Korea and Nepal and the members of the Asian Pacific American community. **END**

