

Krakowski Stresses Importance of Diversity at NAPA Event



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Chief Operating Officer Hank Krakowski (center) with NAPA Executive Board members (l-r) Anthony Chu, Kevin Le, Zena Huen and Peter Nguyen. Photo: ATO

February 14 — Chief Operating Officer Hank Krakowski emphasized the importance of workforce diversity and engagement at the National Asian and Pacific American Association's Lunar New Year luncheon held last week in Washington, D.C.'s Chinatown.

He thanked the more than 75 FAA employees at the luncheon Wednesday for their hard work in supporting the agency's mission. "It's been a great couple of years," he said, citing accomplishments in safety, technical training and technological deployments.

He spoke about the positive changes that will occur in the coming years with the implementation of Next Generation Air Transportation System technologies and procedures.

Krakowski used the holiday to illustrate the importance of FAA's mission, including its international efforts.

"Over 230 million people worldwide will use some method of travel to take part in Lunar New Year celebrations," he said, a number that "highlights the importance of our work at FAA to ensure flight safety and efficiency." He added that "Asia is a beautiful part of the world, and it's where all the air traffic growth is occurring."

Krakowski stressed that a diverse, engaged workforce is essential to the FAA's future success. He praised the growing number of Asian employees hired over the last three years, citing a 39 percent increase in the controller workforce, and a 17 percent increase in the whole ATO.

He acknowledged that more work needs to be done in areas such as increasing the number of Asians in the agency's executive ranks. These efforts are part of the ATO's broader goal to achieve greater workforce diversity.

Krakowski recognized the efforts of NAPA to support the professional development of their members, including training, networking and mentoring opportunities. He stressed that "ATO's Executive Council strongly supports FAA's employee associations."

Noting that recent congressional budget cuts will mean fewer employees can attend annual training conferences this year, he suggested that employee groups consider holding joint conferences, like NAPA does with the Technical Women's Organization. The TWO-NAPA conference will be held in Sacramento, Calif., from June 28 to 30.

Other FAA executives on hand for the NAPA luncheon included Fanny Rivera, assistant administrator of Civil Rights; Bob Tarter, newly appointed vice president of ATO Technical Training; Sandra Sanchez, director of ATO Diversity; and David Chin, director of ATO Performance Analysis and Strategy.

"The turnout was tremendous," said NAPA President Zena Huen.

The Lunar New Year is the first day of the year according to many calendars used in Asian countries. Each year, it falls on a different day between late January and the middle of February.

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