



news Local Asian Leaders Honored for Legacy **release** of Community Service

Eight Presented with HCC's Legacy Award

Houston, TX [June 27, 2008] – Eight leaders of the greater Houston area Asian community were honored Friday, June 27, for their legacy of service. Ghulam Bombaywala, Glen Y. Gondo, Farah Khan, Dr. Rathna Kumar, Gigi Lee, Gordon Quan, Bapsi Sidhwa and Koshy Thomas were presented with Houston Community College's Legacy Award for their commitment to the greater Houston area's Asian-American community and their contribution to the Houston area's status as an international and diverse city of opportunity.

The ceremony was held at the Sam Houston Grand Ballroom & Conference Center, 6833 W. Sam Houston Pkwy. South. Throughout the ceremony, the honorees stressed the importance of education and giving back to the community. "Education is the only way to success, because it gives a clear mind to think, understand things and wisdom comes with it, and that is the only thing nobody can take away from you," said Thomas. Bombaywala added, "Education is power, but at the same time we must help others." Quan sees education as "being that bridge that has led us to success. We are able to accomplish more because of our educational backgrounds and the educational opportunities available."

Promoting education and community service are tandem endeavors for the honorees, their support of one only helps the other. "I saw the need for an organization to promote awareness about the importance of understanding and accepting different cultures. In the last four years we [the Asia Houston Network] have provided over \$50,000 in scholarships to local colleges and universities," said Lee. Gondo observed, "If we continue to promote the community and be involved, I think it will help the image of Asian-Americans to have their dream in America." "We share the community we live in, and through active involvement in your community you can change the lives of

(more)

your neighbors," said Khan. Dr. Kumar added, "I felt that in return for what I am getting from my new home that I had to offer something and so ANJALI is my offering for this country."

Houston Community College's Legacy Award Series acknowledges the cultural diversity of the Houston area by honoring individuals or institutions that have provided a legacy of service to their communities or professions. The awards are bestowed by the respective Trustees and the HCC Chancellor during nationally recognized cultural observances.

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Front row, left to right: Glen Gondo, Kalyani Giri, Shernaz Bhandara, Koshy Thomas, Farah Khan, Gordon Quan, Gigi Lee. Back row, left to right: HCC Chancellor Mary Spangler, Adeel Zeb

HCC is an open-admission, public institution of higher learning whose relevance to Houston and the surrounding areas is reflected in its status as the No. 1 community college in the country for international students. The learning opportunities offered by HCC prepare individuals in our diverse communities with the essential tools for success in an increasingly international and technological society.