

Immediate Release

Contact: David Way

Tel: 214-699-1886

Photos available upon request

Interviews available day of event

## DAPHNE KWOK IS DFW AACC KEYNOTE

Dallas – Daphne Kwok, chair of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will be the keynote speaker at the Dallas Fort Worth Asian-American Citizens Council’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet on Sept. 18, 2010.

Empowerment of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has long been one of Ms. Kwok’s core values. She will speak on accomplishments and critical issues facing the API community at this time.

“We are so honored to have Ms. Kwok join us,” said DFW AACC president Jane Jan. “Our organization is dedicated to giving a voice to the Asian American community and getting them more involved with the political process. Ms. Kwok is certainly a role model for Asian Americans everywhere.”

Ms. Jan also announced that Iowa State Senator Swati Dandekar will join the two Texas gubernatorial candidates, Texas Governor Rick Perry and The Honorable Bill White, as guest speakers.

The banquet will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Richardson, Texas. A VIP reception will be held at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and program at 7 p.m. Community tables of 10 are available for \$500. Individual tickets are \$60 each. Ticket requests may be faxed to 972-398-1377. For more information please e-mail: [David.Way@InnovativeWayInc.com](mailto:David.Way@InnovativeWayInc.com).

The Advisory Commission is part of a White House Initiative to improve the lives of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities underserved by federal resources.

Ms. Kwok is currently the Executive Director of Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California. She previously served as the executive director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, as well as the Organization of Chinese Americans, a national civil rights organization with more than 10,000 members. She was also the first-elected Chair of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

Ms. Kwok has also served on the Secretary of Energy's Advisory Council and on the boards of a wide range of Asian American and Pacific Islander groups, including APIA Vote, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development and the Asian Pacific American Caucus of the American Political Science Association. She is also a Founding Board Member of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund.

The Honorable Mr. Perry was sworn in as the 47th governor of Texas on December 21, 2000, and was elected to four-year terms in 2002 and 2006. He is now seeking re-election. From 1985 to 1991, he served in the Texas House of Representatives. In 1990 he was elected commissioner of agriculture and served two terms. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1999. He is the first Texas A&M graduate to the Governor's Mansion.

The Honorable Mr. White is the former mayor of Houston, Texas. He is also a nationally recognized energy expert. Before serving as mayor, Mr. White served as Deputy Secretary of Energy of the United States under the Clinton Administration, where he helped diversify national energy supplies and saved taxpayers more than a billion dollars with management reforms. He attended Harvard University and law school at the University of Texas.

The Honorable Ms. Dandekar, who was first elected to the Iowa House of Representatives in 2002 will also speak about her legislative experiences. She became the first person of Asian Indian origin to win a seat to the Iowa House of Representatives. Ms. Swati won re-elections to the Iowa House in November 2004 and 2006. In 2008 she won the election to Iowa Senate as a Senator from District 18.

DFW AACC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to promote and assist Asian-American involvement in local social, political and civic activities that increase community awareness, improve representation and enhance the quality of life.