



PHL ConGen Attends NAFFAA Empowerment Conference, Campaigns for Fil-Ams' Broader Representation in the United States



Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz addresses the delegates of the 2019 NAFFAA National Empowerment Conference.

20 August 2019, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General graced the opening of the 2019 National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NAFFAA) National Empowerment Center on 15 August 2019 at the Carson Community Center. The three-day Conference’s theme was, *“Make it Count, Transforming Mindsets for 2020 and Beyond.”* Over a hundred delegates came from different parts of the United States of America.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz highlighted the Filipino-American community as one of the largest, most dynamic and fastest-growing communities in the United States. His remarks focused on the narrative of Filipino-Americans and their path to empowerment in the political, economic and socio-cultural fields.

He said, “This year’s theme...is timely as it comes after a midterm election in which Asian-Americans once again broke barriers and hit new highs.”

The opening session following the kick-off ceremony focused on youth empowerment with several youth leaders sharing their innovative ideas and strategies on how they have made an indelible mark in their respective fields. Young international pop star singer and

writer, Mr. Iñigo Pascual, shared how his Filipino values contributed to his success. He appealed to young delegates and to second generation Filipino-Americans to be proud of their ancestral roots by imbibing Filipino values and by using the language.



Mr. Iñigo Pascual being interviewed by The Filipino Channel University (TFCU) Program Manager Romeo

The Conference was also an opportunity for the Consulate General to call on young Filipino-Americans to participate in the 2019 Filipino Young Leaders Program (FYLPRO). Several FYLPRO alumni all over the United States, who were commended by the Consul General in his remarks, were warmly applauded by the audience.

The City of Carson showed its full support to the Conference with the presence of its high-ranking government officials, including Mayor Pro Tempore Cedric L. Hicks, Sr. and Councilmember Jim Dear. Both officials commended NAFFAA for the success of its statewide Conference in uniting Filipino-Americans and harnessing their potentials.



Mayor Pro Tempore Cedric L. Hicks, Sr. and Councilmember Jim Dear spoke during the opening of the 2019 NAFFAA National Empowerment Conference.

The City of Carson is home to a thriving Filipino-American community and proudly displays a monument of Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, who is a timeless symbol of Filipino pride and empowerment. The monument features a full-body statue of the national hero standing proudly in International Sculpture Garden.

Established in 1997, NAFFAA is a coalition of several Filipinos organizations across the United States of America that envisions to unify Filipino-Americans while helping them hone their leadership and deepen their civic engagement. END.