

JETAA of Northern California (US-13)

- JET Program, Miyazaki, ALT, 2009 – 2012
- JETAANC Assistant Vice President, 2013 – 2014
- National Conference, JETAANC Representative, 2013
- JETAANC Membership Chair, 2014
- JET Program Coordinator, Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, 2013 – Present
- JETAA USA Country Representative, 2014 – Present
- Working Group D.C. Meeting, JETAA USA Country Representative, 2014
- National Conference, JETAA USA Country Representative, 2014

JET is both my professional and personal passion; for over two years I have dedicated myself to working hard for everything JET-related since I arrived back from Japan. As someone who has been heavily involved with the JET Program and the JET Alumni Association I have the necessary experience, skills, and leadership needed to help elevate JETAA USA to the next level.

Background, Achievements & Skills

My story in JETAA is one of becoming progressively more involved in our organization and taking on increasingly larger responsibilities in the service of our alumni. After returning from the JET Program in 2012 I immediately became active in the JETAANC, where I began to help grow the South Bay Area scene. A few months later I became the JET Program Coordinator at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco. I also became Assistant Vice President of the JETAANC and was soon actively involved in San Francisco's Japan-related community.

As Assistant Vice President, I represented the JETAANC at numerous galas, fundraising events, and Japanese festivals, building our relationships with other Japan-related organizations in the Bay Area. I represented the JETAANC at the 2013 JETAA National Conference, where I learned about what other amazing new events and similar structural issues other chapters were having. I left the conference with a strong sense of national togetherness and a desire to support our organization on a wider level.

That next year in 2014 I ran for JETAA USA Country Representative and won the election. Throughout this past year I have been quite active as Country Representative. For starters, I presented about the changing demographics of JET at the JETAA National Convention in Seattle. I flew to Washington D.C. to meet with other JETAA leaders to discuss the development of the US JETAA nonprofit organization. I have been in contact with numerous chapter officers and have worked closely with the other Country Representatives on our nationwide initiatives. In all it has been a very busy but productive and informative year. With rumblings of even grander initiatives coming from Tokyo for the JET Program's

30th Anniversary the experience I can carry over from this CR team to the next will make us that much more capable.

My professional position as JET Program Coordinator allows me to be a part of every aspect of JET, as I am in charge of providing support to the outbound JETs, staying in communication with the current JETs that I have sent, and supporting the returning JETs. This gives me a holistic perspective on the state of the JET Program, how the program is evolving, and where JETAA USA could be the most effective. In addition, I liaise between JETAA, MOFA, and CLAIR Tokyo for my professional duties. Their support is crucial to the growth and development of the JETAA USA, and I can leverage those relationships for the benefit of all chapters.

Goals & Expectations

As a Country Representative going into my second term, I would like to continue and expand upon the hard work that my fellow CRs and the Board of Advisors have accomplished this past year. In addition, there are a few things I would like to focus on. My first goal would be to continue to support the growth and success of all 19 JETAA USA chapters and to represent us well to the international community. I believe that better cross-chapter communication can help ease the burden of financial accounting and other managerial issues that each chapter faces. I have already created a JETAA Treasurers group that I would like to continue to help grow, and I would also like to explore other ways of optimizing performance for each chapter. Furthermore I am looking forward to building closer relationships with JETAA Canada and other JETAAi chapters as we begin to move closer to the JET Program's 30th Anniversary year.

My second goal is to continue to foster and provide support for the fledgling US JETAA official 501(c)3 organization on behalf of the JETAA USA. I flew to Washington D.C. last year to discuss the growth and direction of the US JETAA with other JETAA leaders so I understand where we have come from with this initiative and where we are heading. I will see this initiative through to its completion and proper execution.

Finally I will continue to develop a national membership database. A national database has been difficult to accomplish due to a lack of funding to support the upkeep costs. As the US JETAA becomes more developed and begins to build its finances the infrastructure will finally be in place to have a national database that we can all benefit from. This is the project that I am most passionate about and will not rest until it is completed.

I am excited to continue to elevate JETAA on a national and global level. I believe that my experience and dedication will be of great use in my second term. Thank you for considering me for the position of JETAA USA Country Representative.