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NEWS RELEASE

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Three Individuals Recognized for their Contributions to Japan-US Relations by the Consul General of Japan in Seattle



On January 21, 2016, the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle recognized three highly-qualified individuals for their contributions to Japan-US relations. In a ceremony held during the New Year's Reception at the Official Residence, they were each awarded the Consul General's Commendation. The recipients are as follows (in alphabetical order):

1. Mrs. Tsuchino Forrester

Mrs. Forrester's tireless efforts, monetary contributions, and strong leadership have made a substantial and lasting impact on the local Nikkei community. Over more than 30 years of service, Mrs. Forrester has been involved with numerous organizations. Her generous contributions include serving as president of Kisaragi Kai from 1990 to 1998, transforming it into a public service organization, helping to build Nikkei Manor, and founding the Japanese International Marriage Friendship Club. She is

currently serving as co-president of Japanese Community Service of Seattle, among other activities.

2. Dr. Tetsuden (Tetsu) Kashima

Dr. Kashima is a nationally-recognized scholar whose work concerning Japanese internment during World War II and the Japanese American experience have raised awareness of an important part of history and promoted mutual understanding between our two countries. His many achievements include inaugurating the UW Day of Remembrance to commemorate internment, as well as spearheading the effort to plant cherry blossom trees at UW in 2014 in honor of the centennial of the first gift of cherry trees to the US from Japan. Dr. Kashima actively continues to make valuable contributions to the Nikkei community.

3. Ms. Barbara Sanchez

Through her dedicated efforts to promote cross-cultural exchange and good will between Washington State and its sister cities, Ms. Sanchez has made valuable contributions to strengthening Japan-US relations both locally and nationwide. Over her years of service, Ms. Sanchez has visited several sister cities, including Tateyama in Japan, furthering the mission of friendship between our two countries. It is thanks to the hard work and strong grassroots diplomacy on the part of people like Ms. Sanchez that the connection between Japan and Washington State continues to thrive.

The Consul General's Commendation is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievements in and contributions to the promotion of good relations between Japan and the United States.