

2017 KASF Northeastern Regional Chapter Annual Scholarship Awards Gala

On Thursday, September 14th, over 160 attendees gathered for the 2017 KASF NERC Annual Scholarship Awards Gala. Thanks to the generosity of Board members and donors, the event raised almost \$250,000 - the most in the region's history.

The 9/14 gala was held at The Yale Club in Manhattan, NY, in the venue's newly refurbished Grand Ballroom. Before the main program, attendees enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the Yale Club's Tap Room while perusing more than a dozen silent auction items (including VIP tickets to The Daily Show with Trevor Noah!).

The main dinner program kicked off with KASF NERC Vice President, Christine Kang, singing the American and Korean national anthems and a welcome message by Ms. Joann Lee, the current NERC President. The program moved along briskly with the help of veteran MC Ms. Lillian Son (the daughter of a past Board member). The program included a keynote speech by FiscalNote CEO Mr. Tim Hwang, a recipient speech, a recipient violin performance, and a special saxophone performance by long-time donor Mr. Kenneth Chu. Even after the event officially ended, many people stayed to mingle, re-connect with old friends, and make new ones.

Remembering the lessons from 2016, the Gala Committee - led by Cathy Choi for the second year in a row - implemented several improvements. The registration table was manned by volunteers with laptops instead of physical print-outs, improving the overall registration process. Recipients met with Board and YP members before the event and practiced the scholarship receipt line-up to avoid confusion. Several Board and YP members even wore the traditional hanbok to connect the event to our Korean roots - and to add a pop of color!

The evening highlighted KASF NERC's commitment to fostering community, serving with humility, and investing in our next generation of Korean-American leaders. It was another night to remember.

