



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2023

CONTACT

Caroline Brooks

caroline@cstrategies.com

SPAAN TECH PRESIDENT AND CEO SMITA N. SHAH HELPS LAUNCH WHITE HOUSE SERIES TO ADVANCE ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ECONOMIC EQUITY
Events will help connect community members and small businesses with resources and opportunities

CHICAGO, IL - Yesterday, President and CEO of SPAAN Tech and member of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AA and NHPI), Smita N. Shah, joined the launch of a series of regional economic summits aimed at supporting the AA and NHPI communities, with the first one kicking off at Philadelphia's City Hall.

The AA and NHPI Economic Summit series is the direct result of a May 2022 recommendation from the Economic Equity Subcommittee of the Presidential Advisory Commission on AA and NHPI, in which Shah served as co-chair. This series illustrates a commitment to empowering underserved communities by connecting them directly with federal leaders and resources, and will be organized under the White House Initiative for Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

"It continues to be an honor to serve as a member of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders," said Shah. "I am humbled to see our committee's recommendation come to life through this series of economic summits. Providing the AA and NHPI communities and small businesses with the resources they need to thrive and operate competitively is an important step toward creating a more equitable and just society."

Since December 2021, Shah has served on the 25 member Presidential Advisory Commission, which advises the President and the Federal government on ways the public, private and non-profit sectors can work together to advance equity, justice, and opportunity for AA and NHPI communities.

The regional events will help connect community members and small businesses with critical resources and opportunities. The series is being held in collaboration with the U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of the Treasury, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, the National Asian / Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship, and local officials.

Shah is a longstanding civic leader in Chicago, serving as Chicago Sister Cities International Delhi Committee Chair and spearheading the annual Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi luncheon. Additionally, Shah is a strong advocate for expanding economic opportunities for other Asian American-owned businesses.

Deeply committed to her community, Shah is involved in numerous philanthropic and community organizations, including: member of the M.I.T. Corporation Development Council and Visiting Committee for Civil and Environmental Engineering; Vice-Chairman of the Chicago Plan Commission; Vice Chairman of the Regents for Loyola University of Chicago; advisor to Lurie Children's Hospital; and Board Member of After School Matters, YPO Chicago, Navy Pier, and the Environmental Law & Policy Center. She also serves as an independent director and member of the audit and finance committee for MacLean-Fogg Company and previously as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Museum of Science and Industry.

Shah has been recognized by Crain's Chicago Business in 2016 as one of the city's 100 most-connected Chicagoans (19th) and in 2021 a Notable Nonprofit Leader, Ms. Shah dedicates herself to the community and serves on several civic boards and commissions. In January 2022, she was appointed by President Biden to the President's Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

About SPAAN Tech, Inc.

Founded in 1998, SPAAN Tech, Inc. is a leading global, award-winning, engineering and construction management firm. SPAAN Tech provides and implements sustainable solutions in transportation, aviation, water, energy, and technology. SPAAN Tech has been recognized by Inc. Magazine as One Of The Fastest Growing Companies and by the Small Business Commerce Association as Best of Business in Chicago Engineering Services. Learn more about SPAAN Tech, Inc. at <https://www.spaantech.com/>.