

**PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT  
For Immediate Release**

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**Application Deadline April 18<sup>th</sup>: Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program**

San Francisco (April 3, 2014) – The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) is inviting interested youth (14-17 years old) to apply for its two year Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program (TYAFP), which culminates with a ten-day trip to Japan. This unique youth scholarship program is open to 8-11th grade students interested in learning more about their Nikkei heritage, gaining valuable leadership skills, participating in their community, creating international friendships and experiencing culture first-hand through a trip to Japan in the summer of 2015.



The Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program is named in honor of Henri and Tomoye Takahashi who through the generosity of their foundation this program is possible.



The creation of this program incorporates best practices and experiences of previous programs of the JCCCNC, which have continued to emphasize civic and community involvement; developing a sense of responsibility as world citizens; knowing and understanding more about one's role as an individual of Japanese descent in the U.S.; and how individual citizens of any age can play a role in creating a better understanding and relationship with their foreign neighbors, particularly in Japan. In addition, by focusing on leadership and civic development, the youth build a strong background and foundation for their career resumes. All participants who successfully complete the TYAFP will receive a Certificate of Completion, as well as personal letters or certificates of commendation from the Consulate of Japan, United States Senate and House of Representatives members, and California Senate and Assembly members.

In the first summer of the program, the youth will participate in 6 workshops focusing on Japanese American community, heritage, history and leadership development. Within the second summer (2015), the youth will continue to build their leadership skills, but will shift their focus on planning and preparing for their ten-day trip to Japan. In Japan the

youth will organize and lead volunteer activities in Sendai and Kesennuma in Tohoku, live on a traditional Japanese farm in Osaka, and cap the trip off in Kobe where they will visit an orphanage, a technical community college, and participate in a three-night homestay experience with a Japanese family.

The application deadline is Friday, April 18, 2014. For more information, please contact the JCCCNC at (415) 567-5505, visit their website and download the application along with more information at <http://www.jcccnc.org/programs/shinzen.htm>.

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### **About the JCCCNC**

Envisioned by the Japanese American community, JCCCNC will be an everlasting foundation of our Japanese American ancestry, cultural heritage, histories and traditions. The JCCCNC strives to meet the evolving needs of the Japanese American community through programs, affordable services and facility usage. The JCCCNC is a non-profit community center based in San Francisco.

### **JCCCNC US-Japan Youth Exchange Program History**

The JCCCNC has provided opportunities for Bay Area youth to travel to Japan for cultural exchange programs for the past 14 years. As part of the 40th anniversary of the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City relationship, the JCCCNC and the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco sponsored the first exchange program to Osaka and Kobe, Japan in 1997.