THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO PRESENTS THE 13TH ANNUAL

INTERWOVEN
ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN GRADUATION CEREMONY

WEAVING OUR PATHS
INTERWOVEN CEREMONY

The Interwoven Graduation Ceremony honors graduating Asian, Asian American, multi-racial Asian, Middle Eastern, and/or South Asian undergraduate and graduate students. It’s an event designed to highlight the outstanding work our graduating students have accomplished in the areas of service, academics, and leadership while affirming the unique challenges and experiences they share.

This year’s theme is Weaving Our Paths, which recognizes the diverse and rich cultural heritages shared in our Asian and Asian American community and celebrates each graduating student’s path of self-discovery to seek knowledge, hope, and truth throughout their time at USF and beyond.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shabnam Koirala-Azad

Dean, School of Education

Dr. Shabnam Koirala-Azad is the first female dean of the School of Education, and in 2018, was recognized as one of the Most Influential Women in the Bay Area. Her leadership is informed by a strong background in educational research and scholarship. For more than a decade, as a faculty member in the School of Education and as department chair for the Department of International and Multicultural Education, she added a strong global education component to the curriculum and co-founded the first degree program in Human Rights Education in the United States. As a scholar, she has made new conceptual and methodological contributions to the field of international and comparative education, migration, and diaspora studies. Specifically, her work with South Asian immigrant students and families brings a transnational lens to concepts of identity, belonging, citizenship and civic participation, disrupting misconceptions, and offering critical possibilities for grassroots collaboration across borders. As a mother-scholar, she contributes to scholarship that highlights ways in which mothering enriches careers in academia.

GRADUATING STUDENT SPEAKER: Tiana Valerio

Organizational Behavior & Leadership and Finance Double Major

Growing up surrounded by people who consistently looked like her, Tiana understood the importance of community. She has dedicated her leadership career during her time at USF to promoting equity and inclusivity for all members of the campus community. She hopes to bring this experience into her future professional career through supporting diversity and inclusion in the areas of human resources or finance. She is excited to be able to continue her work on inclusivity as she steps into a corporate finance role in a team of only womxn post-grad. Tiana would like to share with everyone the phrase of kapwa. This translates to “I am not me without you” or “I am me because of you”. She thanks all of those individuals inside and outside of the USF community who have helped her to both fight for and feel kapwa.
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