

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

100 Most Influential...

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Arizona National Guard is the Chair of the FWN 100 Nationwide Search and Selection Committee.

FWN invites nominees in six categories—founders and pioneers, innovators and thought leaders, policymakers and visionaries, behind the scenes leaders, emerging leaders and builders and the “Nicole” category.

Founders and Pioneers honor Filipina women in their capacities as the chief executive, president, executive director or founder of a company, community organization, non-profit, or business venture that they helped start, build or significantly grow.

Innovators and Thought Leaders recognize women who have broken new ground through vibrant, energetic presentations of critical ideas, transforming the way people think, in the fields of arts and letters, performing arts or through pop culture, or have improved the lives of others by helping develop a product or service in the fields of science, technology, biotechnology or medicine.

Policymakers and Visionaries recognize Filipina women leaders who have made or are making a difference in government policies or laws that impact business, industry, and society and who enrich the lives and careers of others by sharing the benefits of their wealth, experience, and knowledge.

Behind-the-scenes Leaders recognize Filipina women who, though they may not have the big title or corner office, are a driving force behind the success of their

employer or community organization and who have gone beyond the call to devote time, energy, and resources to support their community.

Emerging Leaders and Builders are making their mark in a large workplace environment, displaying high energy and skill in a leadership role at a nonprofit institution, government agency, or organization in any field.

The Nicole Category honors Filipina women whose words, actions, and activism, inspire others to act and revolutionize our society’s way of understanding traditional beliefs and customs. A Filipina rape victim, simply known as “Nicole,” inspired this category. She sparked an international dialogue about women’s rights, national sovereignty, and international law as she steadfastly pursued justice against her rapists.

Perhaps the most inspiring awardee this year is Jessica Cox, recipient of the Nicole Category award. Jessica is an extraordinary individual, being born without arms, yet she has achieved far more than what people born with two arms have done in their lifetime.

Jessica flies airplanes, drives cars and lives a normal life, using her feet as hands. She holds the title of the first person without arms in the American Tae Kwon-Do Association to get a black belt and the first woman pilot in aviation history to fly with her feet. Jessica has been featured in the popular afternoon program *Ellen*, hosted by Ellen Degeneres, *Inside*

Edition, and TV networks like CNN and Fox News. Videos showing her flying a plane, demonstrating martial arts stunts and replays of her television and public speaking appearances are proliferating in YouTube and the Internet. Many of the videos and inspiring emails are posted by Filipinos who are proud of her extraordinary accomplishments.

Now an in demand motivational speaker before various groups such as students, teachers, and corporate audiences, Jessica is changing lives as she digs deep into her experiences living armless in a two-handed world. She believes that by combining creativity, persistence, and fearlessness, nothing is impossible. She shows how these three qualities helped her disarm the impossible.

The Asian Journal President and Co-Publisher, Cora Oriel, is one of the winners under the Founders and Pioneers category. (For the complete list of winners, refer to sidebar.) (A/Press)

2009 Most Influential Filipina Women in the US

(Source: Filipina Women’s Network)

Behind the Scenes Leaders

Aileen Suzara; Belle Santos; Cherie Querol Moreno; Daisy Magalit Rodriguez;

Dolly Pangan-Specht; Elsie Rose; Helen Marte Bautista; Jian Zapata; Kathleen Davenport; Lorie V. Reynoso; Lottie T. Buhain; Lovette Rosales Llantos; Dr. Lydia Castillo Fontan; Lyna Larcia-Calvario; Mady Rivera RN; Maria Concepcion Banatao; Naomi Tacuyan Underwood; Nerissa M. Fernandez; Nida L. Recabo MSW; Dr. Priscilla Magante Quinn; Roselyn Estepa Ibanez; Shirley Orille Brazil; Sunny Dykwel; Tess Ricafort Alarcon; Dr. Valerie de Leon

Builders & Emerging Leaders

Cielo Martinez; LTC Cynthia Aloat RN, MN; Denise Castaneda Miles; Gel Santos Relos; Gertrude Gregorio; Jannah Arivan Manansala; Dr. Jennifer Ong; Dr. Katherine Abriam-Yago; Katrina R. Abarcar; Lita M. Abele; Maria (Mimi) Amutan; Mivic Hirose; CAPT Raquel Cruz Bono; Rebecca Delgado Rottman

Founders & Pioneers

Alice Bulos; Dr. Adelamar Alcantara; Analisa Balares; Carina Castaneda; Cora Oriel; Delle Sering Fojas; Ethel Luzario; Evelyn Bunoan; Fe

Martinez; Fe Punzalan, RNBC, PHN, MSN; Fely Guzman; Imelda “Emmie” Ortega Anderson; Judy Arteche-Carr; Maryles Casto; Mona Lisa Yuchengco; Nana Luz; Nelsie Parrado; Dr. Nini RB Bautista de Garcia; Norma Calderon-Panahon MD; Dr. Patricia Espiritu Halagao; Raquel Redondiez; Regina “Nanette” de Dios Alcaro; Rosie Abriam; Ruthe Catolico Ashley; Sherri Burke; Tessie Guillermo; Zenaida Cunanan

Innovators and Thought Leaders

Alelie Funcell; Ana Julaton; Brenda Buenviaje; Cora Tellez; Dr. Esmenia “Mia” Luluquisen; Hazel Sanchez; Dr. Jei Africa; Julina E. Togonon; Lenore RS Lim; Marlina Feleo Gonzales; Marissa Aroy; Nana Luz; Norma P. Edar; Rachel Buenviaje; Ma Rowena Verdan-Beduya; Robyn Rodriguez Canham PhD; Sokie Paulin; “Nicole” Jessica Cox

Policymakers & Visionaries

Carmelyn Malalis; Carmen Lagdameo Stull; Faith Bautista; Hydra B. Mendoza; Joanne F. del Rosario; Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal; Lorraine Rodero Inouye; Lynn Finnegan (Representative); Marissa Garcia Bailey; Myrna L. De Vera; Noella Tabladillo; Rose Zimmerman; Dr. Rozzana Verder-Aliga; Stephanie Ong Stillman ■

Utility companies are role models...

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passenger transportation companies.

In its seventh year, the purpose of the hearing is to hold major companies like Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric, Verizon, Sprint, AT&T, and Southern California Edison to be more accountable when it comes to hiring minorities, governance, procurement with minority companies, philanthropy and cus-

tomers service and marketing.

The public hearing examines the diversity programs of those companies and encourages them to make changes.

“The goal is to diversify the corporate boardroom,” wrote Jose Perez, Chairman of the California Utilities Diversity Council in its annual report. “Our goal is to pursue a policy that promotes a strategically business friendly approach that results in more inclusiveness in opportunities

afforded by the industry.”

Historically, Caucasian males have predominantly dominated the gas and energy industry, according to Bautista.

In 1988, the CPUC established General Order 156 (GO-156) for governing the development of utilities’ Women and Minority Business Enterprises (WMBE) Program and later amended it to include Service Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBEs). The purpose is to cre-

ate business opportunities for Diverse Suppliers, who felt left out by the “old boys network.”

Since the establishment of GO 156, minority hiring and supplier diversity have gone up steadily but there’s more work to do.

“We don’t need a handout or special treatment,” testified AJ Wilson, Vice Chairman of SD-VOB/ DVBE Elite to the panel. “We just want an equal playing field.”

Cable companies are only regulated 10 percent by the CUPC

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600,000 Filipinos legally migrated...

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percent of LPR’s origin while the remaining 56 percent were from Cuba, El Salvador, Canada, Vietnam, and United Kingdom.

Fifty-nine percent of the lawful permanent residents obtained their LPR status in four states such as California, which ranked as the leading state of residence having 3.4 million of LPRs, fol-

lowed by New York with 1.5 million, Texas with 1.3 million, and Florida with 1.2 million.

The LPRs, according to the report, become eligible to apply for naturalization after meeting requirements such as five-year US residency, except those spouses of US citizens who only need three years to be eligible. (*Inquirer.net*)

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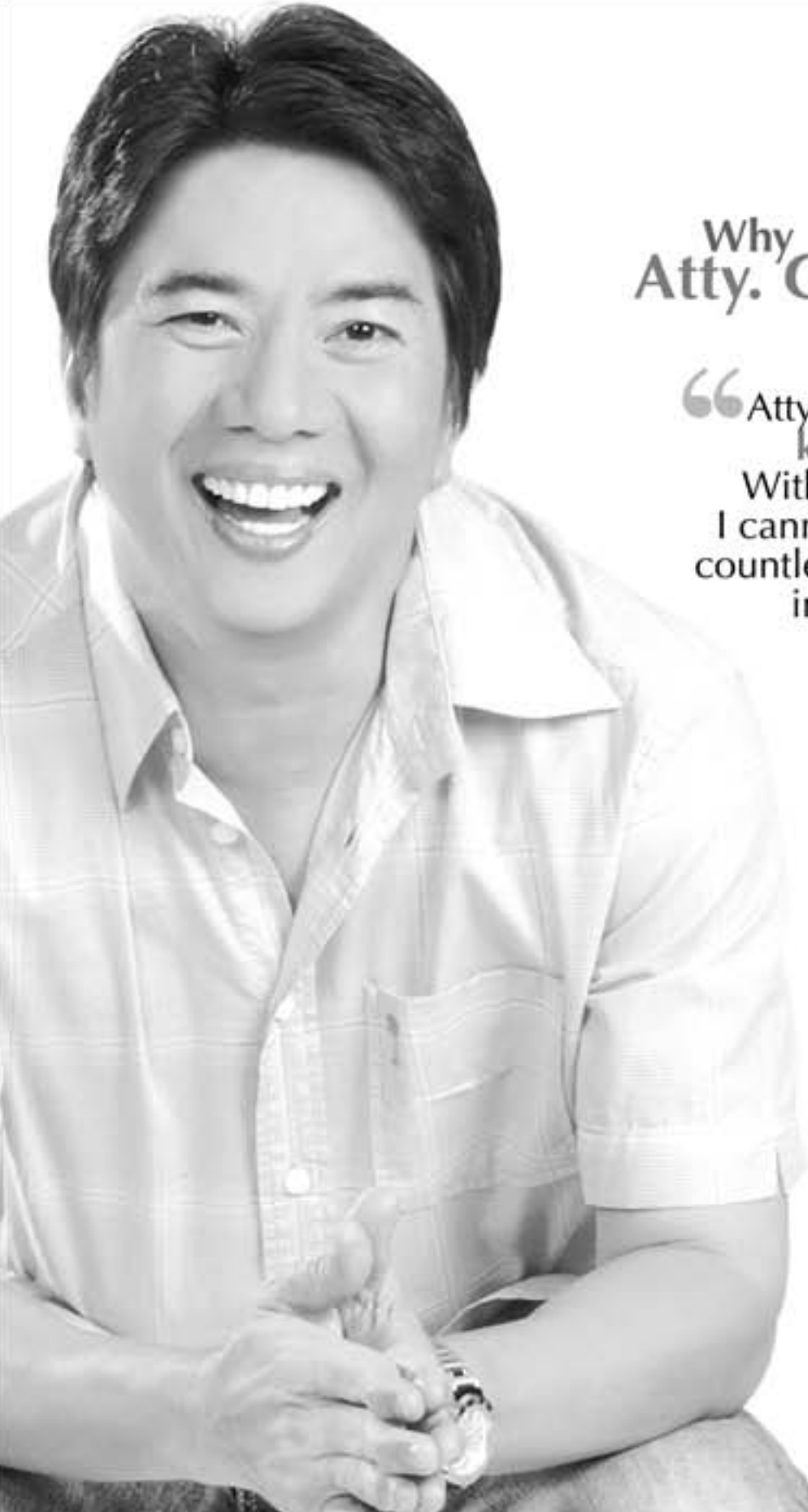


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