

Dinner in Honor of Mr. Jun Yanagi, the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

Asian World Center, Creighton University

March 21, 2024

With the gracious support of the Honorary Consul of Japan for Nebraska and the Nebraska World Affairs Council, the Asian World Center at Creighton University hosted a distinguished dinner event on March 21, 2024, in honor of Mr. Jun Yanagi, the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago. Among the attendees were Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly, Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen, Deputy Secretary of State Cindi Allen, Heath Mello, President and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and a cohort of 50 distinguished guests.

In a [video message of welcome](#), Reverend Daniel Hendrickson, President of Creighton University, extended gratitude to Mr. Yanagi for gracing Creighton with his presence. He also acknowledged the attendees, recognizing them as representatives from various levels of government and public service who play crucial roles in nurturing essential connections spanning Omaha, Nebraska, the broader Midwest, the United States, and beyond. Reverend Hendrickson expressed his eagerness to engage in collaborative endeavors with fellow educators, aiming to enrich the educational experiences of their students with global perspectives.

In his address titled "The Foundation of US-Japan Relations in a Time of Global Uncertainty," Mr. Yanagi underscored the pivotal role of the United States and Japan as strategic allies in the Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing their deepening interdependence. He elucidated that beyond the political-security alliance, the modern relationship between Japan and the United States is characterized by extensive economic, cultural, and educational exchanges.

Nebraska Secretary of State Robert Evnen presented Mr. Yanagi a certificate appointing him an Honorary Citizen of Nebraska for his exemplary service as Consul-General of Japan and his efforts to promote friendly relations between Japan, the U.S. and Nebraska. Secretary Evnen urged Mr. Yanagi as a "newly appointed citizen of The Great State of Nebraska" to return frequently to the Cornhusker State to reaffirm his friendship and affiliations.