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Center celebrates Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage

By James Campbell
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The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville held its Asian American / Pacific Islander Heritage Month observance May 9.

A standing-room only crowd gathered in the cafeteria for an hour-long event featuring guest speaker Seunghee Lee, Safety Office chief, Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Luz Tolentino-Ladrillono, an accomplished Filipino vocalist and actress, and Filipino and Tahitian dance demonstration by Lezith Benton from the Philippine-American Association of Alabama.

Tolentino-Ladrillono wowed the crowd with her soprano range while singing a traditional Filipino song performed in *Tagalog* and selections from *Phantom of the Opera*.

Lee addressed issues of leadership, caring and acceptance based on her career experiences and her Korean cultural upbringing. "Care about your work and other people, including diversity," she said. "Inclusion requires genuine sincere interest—if you do not have that, you cannot have true diversity."

Lee challenged everyone to join her in becoming a leader by listening to differences and understanding perspectives, explaining that it made work and accomplishments a true joy.

Lee concluded by quoting Indian philosopher and cultural leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

"Be the change you want to see in the world – if you want to see excellence, leadership and inclusion, do not wait for someone else, it's each of us who can bring change," Lee said.