ANNOUNCING THIS YEAR’S COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER – TING-YI OEI

RICHMOND, VA - September 13 - Governor Ralph Northam met and congratulated Mr. Ting-Yi Oei as this year’s recipient of the Community Leader of the Year award presented by the Virginia Asian Advisory Board (VAAB).

Joining the Governor were Mr. Oei’s daughter, Genevieve, and his close friends and colleagues from the 1882 Foundation, Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia, and the Library of Virginia; past award recipients Angela Chiang and Secretary of Education Atif Qarni; and Secretary of the Commonwealth Kelly Thomasson.

The award honors and celebrates an individual within the Commonwealth who has exhibited exemplary service or leadership and has had an exceptional impact on the Asian community in Virginia.

VAAB Chair May Nivar presented Mr. Oei with the award and shared highlights from the nomination submitted by Ted Gong, executive director of the 1882 Foundation, “The VAAB congratulates Mr. Oei, a lifelong educator and community leader. His passion and contributions to ensure our history is preserved and celebrated are inspiring. Most notably, Mr. Oei drafted and promoted the successful passage of a Virginia General Assembly resolution to designate May 10, 2019 as the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. It honored railroad workers, 80% of whom were Chinese immigrants; and encouraged schools and leaders throughout Virginia to celebrate this national achievement.”

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Mr. Gong’s nomination noted that as the foundation’s education programs director and board member, Mr. Oei’s historical and political knowledge and teaching skills have impacted both the content and reach of their programs and activities. By designing and executing programs, workshops, and events throughout the Commonwealth, Mr. Oei has helped broaden awareness of Chinese and Asian American history and issues beyond the region.

Mr. Oei taught middle and high school social studies for 20 years and was a high school administrator for another ten in Virginia. He served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea, was a Fulbright Teacher in Scotland, and spent a year teaching in the Dominican Republic. Mr. Oei is currently the Curriculum and Education Director of the 1882 Foundation, which was formed in 2012 after a successful national grass roots effort to have Congress apologize for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. He is also a founding member of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia (“CAPAVA”), a nonprofit pan-Asian policy and advocacy organization.

Click here to listen to Mr. Oei talk about his journey with the 1882 Foundation.