

NEWS RELEASE



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2025 Foreign Minister's Commendation Award Ceremony in honor of Ms. Naomi Negi

On Monday, December 22, a commemorative dinner was hosted in honor of Ms. Naomi Negi, recipient of the 2025 Foreign Minister's Commendation, at the Official Residence of the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago, bringing together relevant stakeholders to acknowledge her achievements and express appreciation for her continued engagement. Earlier, on Saturday, November 22, at the Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) event *Holiday Delight & Kodomo Matsuri*, Ms. Negi was presented by Deputy Consul-General Kishi with the certificate and a commemorative gift awarded by the Foreign Minister, in recognition of her long-standing contributions to the community and steady work to strengthen ties between Japan and the United States.

Ms. Negi joined *Tampopo Kai*, a preschool program operated by the JASC, in 1987, and has served as its coordinator for approximately 35 years since 1990. The program nurtures children through songs, hand games, exercises, picture books and *kamishibai* storytelling, educational games, arts and crafts, while also providing opportunities to experience traditional Japanese culture such as *taiko* drumming, Japanese dance, *ikebana*, tea ceremony, and *judo*. In addition, Ms. Negi established the *Tampopo* Library by donating her personal book collection for the benefit of children of long-term Japanese residents in Chicago.

The presentation of the commendation and the subsequent official dinner served as an opportunity to formally recognize the impact of her work. Ms. Negi's longstanding commitment continues to inspire the community and underscores the importance of nurturing cultural and educational programs for future generations.



At the Commemorative Dinner



Group Photo at the JASC event

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