



FUSIA COURTESY FUSIA

Think globally, intern locally

FUSIA Communications' 17th annual Graduation and Inauguration Dinner was held at the historic Neir's Tavern in Woodhaven on July 15, celebrating the exchange interns sponsored by the group under the U.S. Department of State's Exchange Visitor Program, BridgeUSA, and community partners.

FUSIA, which stands for the fusion of the United States and Asia, said the evening's highlight was the appearance of state Assemblyman David Weprin, center in both photos, a longtime supporter and host of the program. Weprin awarded citations and certificates to the interns, recognizing their contributions to area organizations and neighborhoods. "These young people aren't just

here to learn — they're stepping up, giving back, and becoming part of our city's story," he said, praising FUSIA's work in cultural exchange and community partnership.

A number of other officials also honored both the interns and community leaders. Among those saluted were FUSIA President Elizabeth Kay, Harbachan Singh, senior advisor at FUSIA and Queens Civic Congress chairman, Cedric Dew of the Jamaica YMCA, Ying Zhou of the Tech Incubator at Queens College, attorney Andrea C. Soto of Soto Law, PLLC, and Admerasia, Inc.

Most of this year's interns were from Singapore, and were placed with area lawmakers and others. — Peter C. Mastrosimone