

NEWS RELEASE: Consulate General of Japan in collaboration with Marx Layne & Company

Contact: Glenn Oswald
Carol Lundberg
Marx Layne & Company
(248) 855-6777

Consulate General of Japan
Public Relations
(313) 567-0120 ext. 226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bowling Green Asian Studies Director to Receive Commendation from
Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida of Japan**

DETROIT, Mich. – Nov. 5, 2015 –Akiko Kawano Jones, director of the Asian Studies Program at Bowling Green State University, was awarded a Foreign Minister's Commendation on August 27th by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Fumio Kishida, and will have a reception, held in her honor, on November 6th. The announcement was made by Mitsuhiro Wada, who recently was appointed Consul General of Japan in Detroit, with jurisdiction of Michigan and Ohio.

This specific Foreign Minister's Commendation is presented once a year to recognize those who have contributed to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. Jones' commendation is in recognition of her efforts in cultural activities and U.S.-Japan bilateral relations.

Jones promotes Japanese studies as the director of the Asian Studies Program at Bowling Green State University. She also contributes to the promotion of bilateral, goodwill relations with Japan through a U.S. student exchange at the Japan club. Additionally, Jones hosts Japanese-themed workshops and introduces Japanese culture and seasonal events to Bowling Green students.

She also organizes and leads the *Nakama no Kai*, a gathering to promote camaraderie with Japan. Nakama no Kai was created to foster friendship and cooperation between Japanese and American business executives and their spouses. Additionally, it encourages mutual understanding of Japanese and American cultures and helps to promote and maximize the opportunities in doing business between the two countries.

"We are honored to recognize Mrs. Jones for her exemplary contributions to promoting Japanese culture and language, and furthering opportunities between Japan and Ohio," Wada said. "Her efforts have promoted a great deal of good will between Japan and Ohio, and have helped American and Japanese students develop greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the cultural influences we have had on each other."

About the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit

The Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit was established in 1993 by the Government of Japan to serve in the states of Michigan and Ohio. The Detroit office is one of 14 Japanese Consulates General in the United States. The Consulate strives to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture through educational and cultural programs. The office protects the interests of Japanese citizens and strengthens the Japan-U.S. alliance through furthering relations with local governments, companies, educational institutions, cultural organizations and the general public. For more information, visit www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/ or call (313) 567-0120.

###

**MARX
LAYNE**

MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA