

# JCCC Foundation Awards \$130,000 to the Local Communities

To express heartfelt thanks to local communities, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago (JCCC) Foundation awarded \$130,000 in grants to 18 educational, arts, and civic organizations in Chicago and around the world. The grant-giving ceremony was held on October 21 at the Chicago Club. The recipients, Chicago City Clerk Miguel del Valle, Consul General George Hisaeda, and officers and directors of JCCC attended the ceremony. JCCC Foundation was

founded in 1991 to do something good for the local communities which had welcomed the Japanese companies. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated about \$2.6 million to local organizations which work for the betterment of communities or promote friendships between the U.S. and Japan.

According to chairman of the Foundation, Seigo Watanabe (Mitsui & Co. U.S.A., Inc.), it established the new Japanese Language

Education Grants, which would contribute to funding for schools and non-profit organizations that provide Japanese Language and culture education to students in Chicago and around the world. Watanabe said, "We hope that it would encourage as many students as possible to get familiar with Japan through language study while a growing number of students have their interest in China or India."

The Foundation awarded a total amount of \$42,000, which was more than double from the original budget. For

eight out of nine applicants for the new grant.

This year, the Foundation increased the amount of a grant to \$10,000 from \$5,000. Watanabe said that the increase gave much more impact to help an applicant's



Rosie Roche (l) from the Adler Planetarium and Seigo Watanabe

project.

Also, in the process of selecting awardees, the Foundation added their own appraisal points to the standard evaluations that were rated by outside consultants. The Foundation divided 20 primary endpoints into six categories and put priorities on Culture, Poverty, and Handicapped, followed by Minorities, General, and Delinquency.

The Awardees are:

- \* Japanese Language Education Grants
- Arlington Hts. School District
- 25 (Japanese Language Class for Parents)
- Jonathan Burr Elementary School

- (Chicago Public Schools Japanese World Language Magnet Cluster Program)
- DePaul University
- (Integrative Approach to Understanding Japan:

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Group photo of JCCC Foundation grant recipients and member of the JCCC