


Vivian Chen: 2026-2027 JETAA USA Country Representative Platform

Experience in JETAA and U.S.-Japan Relations	
JETAA USA: Country Representative (2024-2026)	 JET Program Placement: Elementary and Junior High School ALT in Masuda City, Shimane Prefecture (2016-2018) Home JETAA Chapter: JETAADC Hometown: Columbus, OH
JETAADC: Communications and Technology Chair (2023-2024)	
JETAADC: Professional Development Co-Chair (2022-2023)	
U.S.-Japan Council: Building the TOMODACHI Generation Morgan Stanley Ambassadors Program Pitch Competition Judge (2023-present)	
JET Program Interviewer (2022-present)	
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA: Communications Intern (2021-2022)	
Ashinaga Online International Exchange Program Conversation Partner (2021-2022)	
U.S.-Japan Council: Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarship Application Reviewer (2020-present)	
Japan Society of Boston: Graduate Student Intern (2020-2021)	
U.S.-Japan Council: TOMODACHI SoftBank Leadership Program Resident Advisor (2019-2020)	
JET Program Panelist and Volunteer (2018-present)	

Two Years as JETAA USA Country Representative

It has been a privilege to serve as a JETAA USA Country Representative (CR) for another term. As a CR, I have contributed to key initiatives that strengthen our national community of nearly 40,000 JET Program alumni from the United States. This past year was even busier as JETAA USA hosted a successful National Conference (NatCon) in the nation's capital and also my home JETAA Chapter, JETAADC. I also had the honor of representing JETAA USA and presenting on JETAA initiatives happening in the United States alongside fellow CRs Valerie Stewart and Jennifer Sherman at the JETAA International Meeting in Tokyo last fall. This year, I have been endlessly impressed with how robust the JET Program alumni network is through meeting JETAA representatives here and globally. It has been a humbling but also rewarding experience working with my fellow CRs, JETAA USA's Board of Advisors, USJETAA, the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC, and other JET Program stakeholders.

2026 Strategic Goals

Pivoting to other achievements, I made meaningful progress in expanding JETAA USA's professional development presence. After launching JETAA USA's official LinkedIn Page nearly 2 years ago, the page has grown steadily and doubled in followers this past year from 1,500 to nearly 3,400 followers. In addition to refreshing JETAA USA's social media platforms, I remain committed to refurbishing the updated JETAA USA website with the goal of providing valuable resources for JETAA Chapters, while fostering greater engagement and streamlined communication between JETAA USA and Chapter

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leadership. While the website remains an ongoing work in progress, I am eager to run for another CR term to continue strengthening these efforts, especially now that JETAA USA has a webmaster in place and a more user-friendly interface for updates including an up-and-coming Google Site. These digital initiatives not only enhance exchange and engagement between JETAA Chapter leadership and JET Program alumni, but also help create lasting connections within the broader alumni community.

Looking ahead to a third year in 2026, I hope to build on my work experience in government and nonprofit work, as well as program management, public relations, and technology, to even better serve JETAA Chapters nationwide. My strategic goals include:

- Revamping and expanding the JETAA USA website, including the creation of a centralized “Chapter Central” hub via Google Sites to house resources, templates, and best practices for JETAA Chapters
- Increasing digital engagement and visibility, especially for new JET Program alumni, through coordinated outreach and professional development content on platforms like LinkedIn
- Creating a JETAA USA mascot through a community-wide design contest to foster alumni engagement, creativity, and national identity
- Launching a national Japanese language meetup initiative for alumni preparing for the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), using study strategies I employed while studying for JLPT N1, and supporting continued language study as a pathway to greater professional and professional development opportunities for JET alumni
- Exploring deeper collaboration between JETAA USA, USJETAA, Japan-America Societies, and other U.S.-Japan grassroots organizations to expand partnership opportunities
- Developing new ways to connect recent JET returnees with alumni across the United States and globally through JETAA International for mentorship and professional development
- Assisting with preparations for the JET Program’s 40th Anniversary in 2027/2028 by exploring interchapter celebrations and collaborative programming leading up to the milestone year

JETAA Experience Prior to JETAA USA Country Representative

In 2019, I first experienced what being part of JETAA was like after moving to Washington, DC. I saw how active and vibrant the JET Program alumni community could be through my local alumni chapter, JETAADC. After joining JETAADC activities, I knew I wanted to do more than just participate passively in events. I became inspired to become more involved from the organizing role. As a result, I joined the JETAADC Board as the Professional Development Co-Chair in 2022. As Co-Chair, I managed the JETAADC Mentorship Program, an annual four-month funded program that pairs recent JET returnees in the DMV (DC, Maryland, Virginia) area with experienced JET Program alumni mentors to help them transition into their post-JET career trajectories and find employment after returning from Japan.

In 2023, I switched to a different role within JETAADC by taking on both the Communications and Technology Chair positions to help support the growth of our chapter’s online presence and public relations. I updated our website and grew our JETAADC membership base on social media platforms, in particular, increasing our LinkedIn Page follower count by over 500 new members. As of this month, the current LinkedIn Page has almost 3,200 followers. I learned immensely from my other board members and JETAADC partners like the Embassy in Japan and the JET Program Office on what it is like running an alumni chapter and organizing events. I also represented JETAADC at the JETAA 2023 National Convention (NatCon) in Monterey, California. Meeting JETAA leaders from all across North America at NatCon and Japanese government representatives opened my eyes to the larger ecosystem of JETAA leadership that is connecting and sustaining the global alumni community.