

**KAYF:WAFL**

***CAREER FORUM***

**SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021 AT 6PM ET**

HOSTED BY THE  
KOREAN AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.KAYF.ORG](http://WWW.KAYF.ORG)







# ABOUT KAYF

## Our Mission

Supporting and empowering underserved youths of immigrant families.

## History

The Korean-American Youth Foundation (KAYF) was established in 1993 with a single focus to develop our youths so they may find their voice and make a positive impact in their communities.

## What we do

- We Are Future Leaders ("WAFL") High School Leadership Program
- Annual Career Forum
- Team Building Camp
- Scholarships
- Speech Competition
- Field Trips
- Internship Opportunity



**TEAM BUILDING CAMP**



**SCHOLARSHIP**



**SPEECH COMPETITION**



**CAREER FORUM**

# DANIEL CHI

Wealth Management Associate, Morgan Stanley



*Daniel Chi* was born in South Korea, and moved to Flushing, Queens when he was 5 years old. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, and earned his B.Sc in Finance from Lehigh University, where he served on the executive board of the Chi Phi Fraternity.

Upon graduation, Daniel took a position as a Recruitment Consultant with GQR Global Markets, where he was responsible for business development and

candidate placement within the hedge fund industry. After a year, he moved to Morgan Stanley to start his career in Wealth Management.

He is currently a Registered Associate, supporting a team that manages \$1B in client assets. Outside of the office, Daniel volunteers on the Associate Board of the Korean American Community Foundation (KACF), a non-profit organization whose mission is to uplift the Korean-American community both socially and economically.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I chose this path due to my interest in finance, a desire to help people, and strong sales/interpersonal skills.

## WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

Not getting the job I wanted coming out of college. This was completely due to a lack of preparation and research on my part. Being ambitious and starting a step behind is difficult.

## WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?

The best decision I've ever made was to start writing down goals and plans. The first time I did this, I was in a job I didn't like. I took a few days to reflect, and came up with a plan that would guide the next few years.

## WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?

Understanding others is the greatest gift you can give them.  
Understanding yourself is the greatest gift you can give yourself.

## WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I've taught myself to play six different instruments.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Where to begin? Listen to the advice from people older than you; they are genuinely trying to spare you from going through things they've struggled with. There is so much more to life than social status and having fun. Prepare for things early, because the actions you take today will affect where you are 5 years from now.

01



# 02

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

Finance has always been to me the best way to combine all of my favorite skill sets - numbers, current events and real world applications, presentation skills, etc. I have always been able to comfortably network in the world of finance as well, and I enjoyed these courses the most in school.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Early in school, I was set on majoring in Finance but initially had difficulty performing well in my classes and finding a good internship. It took good mentorship and quality personal study to get to where I wanted to be.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

Not accepting my summer internship offer going into senior year and going into the job search. I really wanted to go to New York City and felt that I could find a more challenging environment.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

“Life is too short to be bogged down and discouraged. You have to keep moving. You have to keep going.”

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

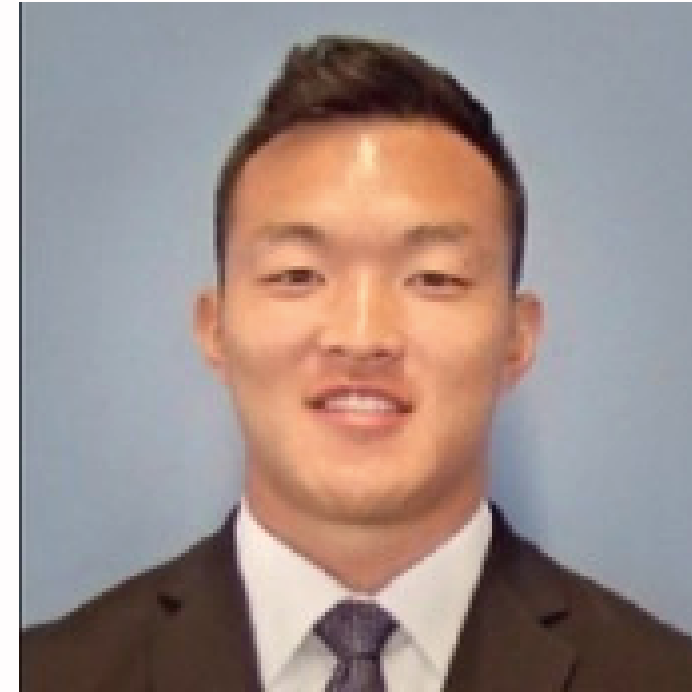
I've taken a video with LeBron James and Barack Obama before.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Keep your head up and no regrets! Enjoy the journey more too.

# MATTHEW CHO

*Analyst, Urban Investment Group, Goldman Sachs*



**Matthew Cho** is currently an Analyst at Goldman Sachs within the Urban Investment Group - a domestic, multi-asset class investing business seeking to drive “double bottom line” results by deploying the firm’s capital in underserved communities across the United States, generating both financial return and social impact. Prior to this role, Matt worked within the Risk Division at Goldman Sachs, covering the Investment Banking and Consumer Banking (Marcus) businesses. Matt received a BBA in Finance from the College of William and Mary with a minor in Mathematics and is also part of the 2019 KACF Community Grants Committee. In his free time, Matt enjoys playing in recreational sport leagues, fantasy football and basketball, Fortnite, and 9man Volleyball for NACIVT.

# JENNIFER KANG

*Channel Marketing Manager, Cisco Systems*



**Jennifer Kang** is a Channel Marketing Manager for Cisco Systems, the worldwide leader in IT and networking. In her role, she manages Cisco's channel partners for Collaboration, Security, and Software technology groups. Prior to Cisco, she served as Marketing Director at DVTEL (now FLIR Systems), a manufacturer of video management systems and Marketing Specialist at Kratos Public Safety & Security, a physical security systems integrator. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Government/Law from Lafayette College. She enjoys traveling and watching hockey.

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

My older cousins were my mentors and they helped peak my interest in marketing. During college, when I was exploring what I wanted to do after graduation, I saw the type of work they were doing and believed it would fit well with my strengths and personality. My last internship before senior year was doing marketing and communications for a non-profit company that further solidified my interest in the marketing field.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Demonstrating that I was an asset to the company during my first job, especially given that I didn't have a formal degree in marketing or business.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

Taking calculated risks each time I was recruited for my next career move.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

Never be complacent. Someone is always watching.

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I have a significantly younger sister (18 year age gap!)

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Get out of your comfort zone and don't be afraid to meet new people and try new things.

# 04

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I have a passion and interest in serving the public and in the US Government.

## WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

Four military/combat deployments overseas. I took it day by day.

## WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?

Trusting my heart and pursuing in the career path I am passionate about.

## WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?

There's a quote by French philosopher. He stated "It's love, giving everything, sacrificing everything without the slightest hope of anything in return."

## WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I enjoy listening to music from countries I traveled to around the world. I am also learning Muay Thai.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Don't feel like you have to prove yourself to anyone. Be true, be genuine, be respectful. But most importantly, be yourself.

# DANIEL KIM

*NYPD Police Officer & U.S Marine Corps Reserve Military Officer*



*Major Daniel H. Kim* is a police officer serving the New York Police Department and a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Military Officer. During his military service, he was deployed as a communications liaison officer supporting missions and theater security operations throughout Africa, and was promoted to Captain in 2013. In 2015, he volunteered and advised community leaders, organization presidents, and local politicians on law enforcement, military, and veteran-related issues, and later that year was sworn into the New York Police Department.

From November 2016 to June 2017, he deployed to Afghanistan with the United States Marine Corps. During this period, he was the Director of International Customs and Coordination Cell and the Deputy Chief of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Funded Equipment, Joint Operations Logistics section. Following his mobilization to Afghanistan, In October 2019, he received a promotion to the rank of Major. From June 2020 to January 2021, Major Kim mobilized to support Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve in Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq, as the Northeast Syria Coordination Group Chief of Staff and the Lead Planner. Upon return of his fourth overseas/combat-zone deployment, he transitioned back into the New York City Police Department and patrols out of the 111th Precinct as a police officer.

Daniel graduated from SUNY Albany as an honors student with a Bachelor's degree in Social Welfare in 2009, and completed his Masters of Arts degree in International Affairs at the University of Oklahoma in 2014.



# ED KIM

*VP of Education, C2 Education*



*Ed Kim* currently serves as the VP of Education Development & Curriculum for C2 Education, a K-12 GPA management, test prep support, and college counseling company with 190 centers in the United States. He graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2009 with degrees in Business Administration and Biomedical Engineering.

Shortly after graduation, Ed began tutoring students from his alma mater high school on weekends, but he fell in love with education and joined C2. Starting as a part-time teacher, Ed's passion for education drove him to become the education and academics leader for the company; Ed has conceptualized and developed over 120 proprietary workbooks for C2, and has taught over 2000 students in 10 years. Today, Ed Kim heads C2's education and academics teams while taking on numerous multi-functional roles including leading in public relations and internal certification programs.

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

What started as a part-time job tutoring students turned into a passion for education. Opportunities for advancement continually came in that allowed me to exercise that passion.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Breaking the barrier from mid-level management to the senior executive team while being younger than everyone else by 15-20 years was a big obstacle. I got through it by really taking a step back to change my mind to a growth mindset and being objective.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

There are two. One was related to work and it was deciding to stick with the company when it was at its lowest point and almost falling apart to be a part of the solution, not the problem. The second is personal and it was deciding to adopt a growth mindset focused on self-evolution.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

"I will find the way or I will make one." - Hannibal, Carthaginian general

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I love tattoos as a personal form of self-expression (if done tastefully and meaningfully), and I have more than most people can guess.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

It's okay to make mistakes as long as you learn from them.

05

# 06

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

Industry change to pursue my skincare dreams!

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Not having a business degree. I took a marketing class at NYU SPS and networked like crazy! I kept applying to my dream companies until I got interviews.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

Taking a risk to change fields, risking judgment from others!

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

It is better to give than receive. Or health is wealth! (both from my Mom :))

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I was born and raised in Vermont!

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Pursue your passions even if it's different from your friend's passions.

# ESTHER KIM

*Associate, Estée Lauder Companies*



Hailing from the small town of Brattleboro, Vermont, *Esther Kim* moved to New York City after having attended Northeastern University in Boston for a degree in International Affairs. She currently works at The Estée Lauder Companies on the Travel Retail Worldwide skincare marketing team for the Estée Lauder brand. She previously completed internships and held positions at The European Union, The United Nations and at Sullivan & Cromwell. In her spare time, Esther enjoys volunteering at KACF, dog adoption events and children's literacy programs.



# PHILIP KIM

*Attorney; Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, Cantor Fitzgerald*



*Philip Kim* grew up in Atlanta, Georgia, and moved to Los Angeles, California during high school. He graduated from Rolling Hills Preparatory School in Palos Verdes, California, and earned his B.A. in Political Science at UCLA. Upon graduation, Philip attended Fordham University School of Law and earned his Juris Doctor degree.

During law school, Philip interned for the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York in the Criminal Division. Upon graduating from law school, he took a position as an Associate at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP, a global litigation law firm. Thereafter, Philip later as an Associate to DLA Piper LLP, another global law firm, to further specialize in the practice of commercial litigation and arbitration. In 2019, Philip joined Cantor Fitzgerald, a financial services and investment bank, as a Vice President and Assistant General Counsel. Today, he handles all litigation matters and goes to trials on behalf of Cantor Fitzgerald and its affiliates, including Newmark Knight Frank, GFI Group, Inc., and BGC Partners. Philip is also a co-head of the Litigation Committee of the Korean American Lawyers of Greater New York (KALAGNY).

# 07

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

Ever since the end of high school, I naturally gravitated towards going to law school.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Moving from a suburb and a huge high school to a very small private school in urban neighborhood in Los Angeles. I had to change my lifestyle and change my habits.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

Taking time off between college and law school.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

What doesn't kill you will only make you stronger.

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I've never been bitten by a mosquito.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Surround yourself with people who you aspire to be.

# 08

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I chose to become a doctor because I wanted to provide medical care in areas where people may not have the best access to medical care.

## WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

Recently, I had to deal with a health problem while also juggling school commitments. After that ordeal, I realized how important it was to stay mentally and physically healthy. Honestly, I overcame that hardship through the support of my school friends and my family. I realized how important having a good support system is, and is one of the points that I want to stress during my talk.

## WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?

My best decision was to go with my gut and pursue medicine. Although the path is grueling I have enjoyed every aspect thus far, and I am excited to see where my career takes me. I could not imagine myself working in any other job sector.

## WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?

Once you start something, see it through to the end no matter what.

## WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

I can play various instruments (piano, clarinet, sax, drums).

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?

Don't take life too seriously. Take things one step at a time. Things have a way of working themselves out.

# ROBERT KIM

*Medical Student, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine*



*Robert Kim* is currently a second-year medical student at the NYIT College Of Osteopathic Medicine. He became interested in medicine for a myriad of reasons ranging from family illnesses to a profound interest in the biomedical field. He cites the relative autonomy of being a physician and the direct influence he is able to have on his patients' wellbeing as main reasons for pursuing a career in the medical field.

Robert graduated from Stuyvesant High School in New York City in 2012, and attended Brown University for undergrad. After graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Immunobiology in 2016, Robert matriculated into medical school at NYITCOM, where he is soon to take the first of his board exams and transition into his clinical years.



# JAE MOO LEE

Medical Student, New York Institute of  
Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine



*Jae Moo Lee* is an alumnus of KAYF's WAFL program, Class of 2012. He attended Boston University and earned B.A. in Biology with a minor in Medical Anthropology. After graduation, Jae accepted a position as a clinical research coordinator at the Division of Trauma, Emergency Surgery & Surgical Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

He was responsible for the coordination of clinical trials and management of the Division's international research fellowship program. During his time, he produced 27 publications in peer-reviewed journals and gave presentations at multiple local and national meetings. After two years, Jae pursued an M.P.H. in health policy and management from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, where he founded and served on executive boards of two student organizations. At the same time, he took a position at the Quality Department of Columbia Doctors as a hospital administrator. Jae is currently a medical student at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

On April 15, 2013, I was attending Boston University Boston Marathon bombing killed 3 and injured 264 bystanders. This tragedy changed lives of many on that day. I was one of them. For someone who was interested in pursuing medicine, I was introduced to trauma surgery as a specialty. Trauma surgeons, as well as their teams and first responders, saved many who were injured from the attack. I was curious to learn more. Thus, after graduating, I was fortunate enough to join a trauma team at Massachusetts General Hospital. Curiosity was why I started on this career path.

## WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?

Self doubt was my biggest obstacle I had to overcome. During high school and early college years, my academic record was far from being stellar. I was overly stressed and doubted whether I could be academically successful. My self-esteem was at its all time low. Increasing self-efficacy naturally improved my self-esteem. Self-efficacy is a belief in your ability to complete tasks and produce desired outcomes. By keeping track of small successes, such as crossing off my to-do list, I was able to increase my self-efficacy. Such activity may seem small but it does its job.

## WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?

I would not say it was my purposeful decision but exploring other fields of healthcare was the best opportunity that happened during my early career. Prior to graduating from college, I was only focused on pursuing medicine - becoming a physician. I did not know anything else about healthcare. Honestly, I did not even know why I specifically wanted to be a physician. I ended up pursuing clinical research at Massachusetts General Hospital, health policy and public health at Columbia University, and hospital administration at ColumbiaDoctors. I was exposed to various important sectors of healthcare that I had not realized before. From these experiences, not only did I form new interests within healthcare but also I had a better idea of why I wanted to become a physician.

## WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?

To live with sincerity.

## WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?

During my free time, I paint and spend my time with my fiancé. I am also working on to start a podcast with some of my friends from Columbia University.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?

"Every flower blooms in its own time." - Ken Petti  
Don't compare yourself to others. Don't rush and take your time to learn about yourself. Everything will be alright.

09

# 10

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

I didn't actually plan for a career in public service. I was working in the private sector at the time when my grandfather was being pushed out of his rent regulated unit. Going through the experience of fighting for my grandfather to keep his housing is what motivated me to help others. I quit my job shortly after to become a community organizer, and eventually public policy director for Asian Americans for Equality.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

A bill that I was trying to get passed was met with strong opposition from a small but active group of individuals. When it was clear that I was going to be unable to negotiate with the opposition, I instead sought a greater number of allies to outnumber the the noise from the opposition. It was a key lesson on the importance of allyship.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

To leave the private sector to pursue a career in the public service.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

Don't let setbacks hold you back, keep moving forward.

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I love ice cream and I frequently make my own at home. I've made all sorts of weird flavors, many of which sounded much better than they tasted...

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Don't be so set on your plans and expectations. Be more open and pursue things that you find happiness and believe in.

# RICHARD LEE

*Candidate for NY City Council, Senior Advisor to the Borough President*



*Richard Lee* first became involved in the community when he left the private sector to become a community organizer with a non-profit organization, Asian Americans for Equality, organizing community members to fight against displacement, immigrant rights, and equity in City funding for Asian American communities. Then, he joined the New York City Council as the Budget and Legislative Director to then-Deputy Majority Leader, and now State Senator, Leroy Comrie. Richard most recently served as the Budget Director for the Queens Borough President. Richard graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and currently holds a B.S. in Public Policy and Management from Carnegie Mellon University and an M.P.A. in Public Policy from the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.



# JOSHUA PARK

Software Developer, Unqork



*Joshua Park* was born in South Korea, came to Seattle, Washington at the age of 11. Joshua Park worked for J.P Morgan as a software developer for 2 years and now he is working in a start-up company as a lead engineer. Currently, he makes platforms for banks and companies building a digital solution end-to-end for remediating contracts impacted by LIBOR rate and using FinTech partners.

Joshua works at a start-up company called Unqork which is a “no-code” platform that allows for a rapid app dev to support the workflows and data workflows for client interaction. Although he did not have a B.A in Computer Science but found his way through software engineering by graduating from coding boot camp. He enjoys volunteering at KAYF and truly thinks about the value of all the programs within KAYF.

11

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

I chose this path because I was passionate about developing websites.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

I had to give up my part time job, money, and 3 months of my time to graduate from a coding boot camp with a graduation rate of 3%.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

The best decision I've ever made was spending all my money that I got from working a part time job to attend and graduate from a coding bootcamp.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

Opportunities don't happen, you create them.

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I often talk to myself in Korean when I work in the office.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Your college years are worth your lifetime.

# 12

## **WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?**

During college, I was passionate about fighting the crime in our society. Crime is more than what you see in the news but consists of many aspects of our society.

## **WHAT WAS A BIG OBSTACLE YOU HAD TO OVERCOME, AND HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH IT?**

Three months of unemployment which felt like three years. Just try and never give up, and realize you just have to start from somewhere.

## **WHAT WAS THE BEST DECISION YOU EVER MADE?**

Moving out from government/financial sector.

## **WHAT IS A MOTTO THAT YOU LIVE BY?**

Challenge the Status Quo.

## **WHAT'S A FUN/INTERESTING FACT ABOUT YOURSELF?**

I wanted to name my daughter Lumi when I was in college and after 10 years...she is in my life!

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR 15-YEAR-OLD SELF?**

Buy Google and Amazon stocks!

# JUN YOUNG RO

*Program/Operations Manager, Google*



*Jun Young Ro* is a Trust and Safety program/operations manager at Google. He previously worked as the director of Trust and Safety operations at TikTok, financial crime investigations (anti-money laundering & counter-terrorist financing) manager at BNP Paribas & JPMorgan Chase, and intelligence analyst at the Department of Homeland Security. Jun Young is also currently serving as an advisory council member at the National Unification Advisory Council of South Korea. He received his Masters of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law, and Society from the University of California, Irvine, and B.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park.