



## PROFILE

Engineer  
Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division,  
Newport

## CITATION

Inspiring mentor and technical leader for the next generation of engineers and technicians supporting the submarine fleet

# POONAM AGGARWAL

## Asian American Most Promising Engineer of the Year

Ms. Poonam Aggarwal of the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Newport dedicates her expertise to the Sensors and Sonar Systems Department as a System Lead for the development of Large Vertical Array (LVA) test sets. Crucial to the evolution of naval technology, rigorous testing leads to safe and accurate systems that enhance warfighter capabilities.

In her current role, Ms. Aggarwal leads a multi-disciplinary team to test LVA Outboard Electronics to be used on current and future classes of submarines. Her success in developing the highest fidelity of testing can be attributed not only to her own technical acumen but to her ability to inspire her team to be diligent and determined in their tasks. Her teams are known for their problem-solving skills and strategic thinking. Besides managing people Ms. Aggarwal is adept at managing complex schedules and large budgets. She is consistently on time and on budget. Her understanding of what is best for the sailor was developed through her involvement with the Sea Mentor program, which allowed her to go underway on an operational submarine. Mentoring is a top priority for Ms. Aggarwal as she helps team members reach their potential by breaking down barriers caused by uncertainty and low self-confidence. Outside of her work team, she shares her experiences and advice with high school students through one of the Command's educational outreach programs.

Ms. Aggarwal received her Bachelor of Engineering in electrical engineering from the City College of New York and her Master of Engineering in ocean engineering from the University of Rhode Island. Her future plans at Division Newport include obtaining a Branch Head position so she may help newly hired engineers develop the skills needed to best serve the Fleet.

