Lui is the first Asian American male to anchor a network news program. He anchors *Early Today on NBC* and is dayside anchor for MSNBC. And his accomplishments extend well beyond television.

Teacher and NEA member Jeanette H. Wong says of Richard Lui: “We have known each other for 30 years. He was the best man at my wedding. If I could choose one word to describe Richard, it would be driven…Driven to make an impact in improving human and civil rights.” In 2014, Asian Americans Advancing Justice awarded him its American Courage Award for Distinguished Service.

Ms. Wong attributes Richard Lui’s activism to the influence of his mother. She was an elementary school teacher for 40 years in the San Francisco School District. She always chose schools with the most disadvantaged students, doing what she could to help them and their families.

For years, Richard Lui has challenged the stereotyping of Asian Americans. “We are too diverse a group to put into a stereotype box,” he says. “Some of us poor, others are prosperous. Some of us have highly educated parents, others of us do not.” He uses his own life as an example. Instead of excelling at school, he was a terrible student. Instead of going to college, after high school he got a job at Mrs. Fields Cookies. It wasn’t until he realized, at the age of 22, he didn’t want to work in cookies for the rest of his life that he went to college.

What’s more, Richard Lui has taught for seven years at a summer journalism camp for Latino, African, Asian, and Native American students. He’s spoken at NEA Leadership Summits. He has also advocated for The Dreamers and comprehensive immigration reform. His Chinese grandparents were undocumented when they came to the United States.

As a journalist Richard Lui is best known for reporting and co-producing “Enslaved in America,” an NBC documentary exposé of human trafficking.