

**LAO IU MIEN CULTURE ASSOCIATION**  
**SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2016**



SOWING THE SEEDS  
FOR SUCCESS

## **IU MIEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND MISSION STATEMENT**

The Iu Mien Scholarship Fund (IMSF) was formed in May 1997 by the Lao Iu Mien Culture Association to address the educational needs of the Iu Mien community. The purpose of the IMSF is to provide financial support for the Iu Mien students in pursuit of higher education and to encourage Iu Mien youth to take leadership in the Iu Mien community. The scholarship aims to propel students to excel through ways that are not provided by conventional awards.

Since 1997, the Lao Iu Mien Culture Association, Inc. (LIMCA) has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors and G.E.D. students in pursuit of higher education through the Iu Mien Scholarship Fund (IMSF). As of 2014, LIMCA has awarded over 106 scholarships totaling over \$71,000 and this would not be possible without the dedicated individuals of the IMSF Committee and the generosity of our committed donors over the past 17 years.

Please join us by supporting the unique program with a donation, attendance at the scholarship event, or both. This year's event will be held .

### **IU MIEN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

c/o Lao Iu Mien Culture Association  
485 105th Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94603

For more information, contact Erica Saephan at  
esaephan@gmail.com or Yoon Saechao at  
yoon.saechao@gmail.com.

**Find us on the web at [www.LIMCACenter.org](http://www.LIMCACenter.org).  
& on Facebook at [Facebook.com/IuMienScholarshipFund!](https://www.facebook.com/IuMienScholarshipFund)**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS**

The Iu Mien Scholarship Fund (IMSF) was created in 1997 to recognize the hard work of our Iu Mien youth and to motivate them to pursue higher education. Only through the commitment of volunteers and the undying support from donors have we been able to continue to provide this scholarship to our Iu Mien youth each and every year. In addition to offering five scholarships to those starting their undergraduate journeys, we will offer one scholarship to a graduate-school bound student for the first time ever in IMSF history.

The theme this year, "Sowing the Seeds for Success," highlights the importance of what we hope to continue to accomplish for our Iu Mien community. Pursuing a higher education provides more opportunity and we want our Iu Mien youth to have various opportunities to be successful. In addition to obtaining a degree, our wish is that the Iu Mien youth will apply what they learn to help improve the Iu Mien community and to preserve the rich Iu Mien culture.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support for our Iu Mien youth. The IMSF committee would like to thank the LIMCA board members, District Council Leaders, past and current donors, sponsors, past recipients, supporters, volunteers, and everyone else who has supported the scholarship fund for the last eighteen years. Without your support, we would not be able to recognize the great work of our youth. Thank you!

- The Co-Chairs, Yoon Saechao and Erica Saephan

## RECIPIENTS OF THE PAST 10 YEARS

### 2015

Jasmine Saephan (San Francisco State University)  
Tyler Saephan (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
Lai Saetern (University of California, Davis)  
Bryan Chao (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo)  
Serenity Liew (Sacramento State University)  
Brenda Saephan (University of California, Davis)

### 2014

Kendra Chao (Sacramento City College)  
Melinda Chao (San Jose State University)  
Shadie Lee (Merritt College)  
Skylar Saechao (California State University, Monterey Bay)  
Tiffani Saechou (St. Mary's College)  
Brittany Saephan (University of California, Santa Cruz)

### 2013

Andrew Saephan (University of California, Berkeley)  
Daniel Yaangh (University of California, Merced)  
Chia Saechao (University of California, Merced)  
Beverly Saechin (Sonoma State University)  
Meuy Saechou (University of California, Davis)

### 2012

Tiffany Chao (San Francisco State University)  
Chanelle Jose (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
Cheng Saechao (University of California, Davis)  
Eric Saechin (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)  
Annie Saetern (California State University, Sacramento)

### 2011

Bryant Phan (Stanford University)  
Annie Saechao (University of California, Davis)  
Michelle Saechao (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Kimberly Saepan (Azusa Pacific University)  
Megan Saeteurn (San Diego State University)

### 2010

Dominic Saelee (California State University, Fresno)  
Yew Saephan (University of California, Davis)  
Christy Saepanh (University of California, Davis)  
Shawn Saeturn (California State University, Fresno)  
Zachary Syvongsa (San Francisco State University)  
Lai Hin Saechao (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)  
Melanie Law (University of California, Merced)  
Andrew Saechao (University of California, Merced)  
Gina Saechao (University of California, Berkeley)  
Samantha Seefong (University of California, Riverside)

## A FEW WORDS FROM PAST RECIPIENTS

### ANNIE SAETERN 2012

My mother had me in her early teens and raised me as a single mother. Because of that, my maternal grandparents were actually the ones who raised me. As a result, I am able to speak, understand, and converse with them in Mien. My mother does not have the best reputation in the Mien community and that reflected on my family. I have three younger siblings and felt that I needed to take on more than the responsibility of an older sister. My family is low-income and I did not have the most available resources or best opportunities. But when I did not have the resources, I actively searched for them and found ways to get the help that I needed. The circumstances of my family motivated me to do more for myself and I knew and understood that academics was my only chance at changing this. I excelled in school and did as many extracurricular activities as I could, so that I was productive. Although my mother was not as present as I would have liked her to be, I am grateful for my grandparents for raising me. Other than all the things I disclosed above, I had a pretty good childhood. If I ever got upset about the circumstances that I was in, I always thought about other children that have it worse.

I received the Lu Mien Scholarship in May 2012 which was a huge surprise to me. It meant a lot because it showed that the Mien community was making an effort to invest in their youth and to encourage them to seek higher education to better their lives, families, and community.

I recently graduated UCLA as a third year with a Bachelor's in Sociology and a minor in Global Studies. Currently I am going to Law School at Humphrey's College, Laurence Drivon School of Law. I hold a position as a client coordinator at Central Valley Youth Legal Services, where I supervise case managers and work for an attorney that represents foster youth.

Eventually, I would like to do some advocacy work as well as work on programs that involve the youth in our Mien community. Often we hear or see the Mien youth today not knowing a thing about our culture or understanding the significance of our traditional ceremonies. It would be wonderful if we could have workshops/conferences where we not only teach our youth about our culture but also empower them to actively make changes in their community.

This year's theme of the banquet "Sowing the Seeds for Success," definitely applies to the Mien community, because we start the positive influences in our youth now to have positive resolutions in the future.



### MEUY SAECHOU 2013



I received the Lu Mien Scholarship in 2013. It was very significant to me as it served as financial assistance to further my educational pursuits. It also showed me that the Lu Mien community deeply valued the education and leadership of our youth. I was able to use the scholarship fund to purchase

textbooks and school supplies throughout my first year in college.

I am currently a third year student at UC Davis with a major in Neurobiology, Physiology, and Behavior and a minor in Psychology. After receiving my degree, I hope to apply to an occupational therapy graduate program in hopes of becoming an occupational therapist. I wish to use my knowledge and skills to help improve others so that they can make a difference in their own lives.

I would like to help contribute to the Lu Mien community by actively supporting or volunteering my time at cultural and communal events. I also seek to educate our Mien youth about the significance of higher education and leadership, and hope to emphasize the importance in preserving our Mien cultural traditions and heritage. In order for change to occur, we must begin with devoting time and assistance to what we currently have so that new ideas can develop and greater impacts can be made. The establishment of the IMSF does just this, as it provides financial and moral support for Mien students today so that they can create bigger positive changes for the Lu Mien community in the future.

IMSF is a great foundation with a positive purpose. I hope that IMSF continues to gain support from others so that it can further strengthen and help future Lu Mien students succeed.