

Community Impact Award

For centuries, the Hmong have recorded their rich history of culture and problem solving through storytelling and elaborately embroidered panel known as a story cloth. It is in that tradition, Project HMONG “Threading the Needle of Hope” award honor individuals who champion and advance the spirit of fostering community and student success and in doing so, strengthen the fabric of the Hmong American communities.

2020-2021 Honorees

PROJECT HMONG
Threading the Needle of Hope
Honorees

Mai Yang Thor
Executive Director
Hmong Youth Parent United

Caroline Thao
High School Teacher
Grant Union High School

Dr. Pachida Lo Lyfoung
Psychiatrist
Kaiser Permanente

Karina Figueroa-Ramirez
Equity coordinator
Sacramento State

Dr. Mary McCarthy
Professor
Sacramento State

Dr. Maiko Xiong
Professor
Sacramento State

Mai Xi Lee
Director
Social Emotional Learning
Sacramento City Unified School

Ann Veu
Vice Principal
Visions in Education

Cathy Vue
Program Manager
Sacramento Region
Community Foundation

Gaw Vang-Williams
Director
Vocal Jazz program
Sacramento State

Bao Johri
Interim Deputy Chief
Information Officer
Sacramento State

Pao Khang
Procurement Specialist
Employment Development
Department

Julie Lynhiavue
Chief Executive Officer
T & Y Market

Nouae Vue
Engineering Manager
City of Brentwood

Nicole Her
Computer Engineering

Brian Thor
Communication Studies

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SACRAMENTO STATE | STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND EDUCATION EQUITY PROGRAMS

- Mai Yang Thor, Executive Director, Hmong Youth and Parent United
- Caroline Thao, High School Teacher, Grant Union High School
- Dr. Pachida Lo Lyfoung, Psychiatrist, Kaiser Permanente
- Karina Figueroa-Ramirez, Equity Coordinator, College of Education, Sacramento State
- Dr. Mary McCarthy, Professor of Chemistry, Sacramento State
- Dr. Maiko Xiong, Professor of Education, Sacramento State
- Mai Xi Lee, Director, Social Emotional Learning, Sacramento City Unified School District

- Ann Veu, Vice Principal, Visions in Education
- Gaw Vang-Williams, Director, Vocal Jazz program, Sacramento State
- Cathy Vue, Program Manager, Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- Bao Johri, Interim Deputy Chief Information Officer, Sacramento State
- Pao Khang, Procurement Specialist, Employment Development Department
- Julie Lynhiavue, CEO, T & Y Market
- Noua Vue, Engineering Manager, City of Brentwood
- Nicole Her, Student, Computer Engineering
- Brian Thor, Student, Communication Studies

2019-2020 Honorees



- The 8th President of Sacramento State, Dr. Robert S. Nelson
- Vice President for the Division of Student Affairs, Dr. Edward Mills
- Associate Vice President for Student Retention and Academic Success, Dr. Marcellene Watson-Derbigny
- Professor of Ethnic Studies, Dr. Tim Fong

- Business Analyst, Anne Cheng
- Vice President of Programs and Partnerships for Sierra Health Foundations, Kaying Hang
- Family Physician at Kaiser Permanente and Sac State alum, Dr. Sa Vang
- Former, School Principal and current Assistant Superintendent for Sacramento City Unified School District Tu Moua-Carroz
- Deputy with Sacramento Sheriff, Director of East Bay Asian Youth Center-Sacramento and Sac State alum, Leesai Yang
- Current student, Andrew Yang
- Recent MBA student and now Sac State alum, Derek Lee