2018 Iu-Mien Student Conference

Jimmy Phanh Memorial Scholarship
The Jimmy Phanh Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Mr. Jimmy Phanh, co-founder of the Iu-Mien Student Conference (IMSC) and former Board Vice-President of IMSC’s parent organization, Iu-Mien Community Services (previously known as United Iu-Mien Community, Inc.), who passed in 2009. A kind, friendly face to the community he served, Jimmy spent most of his life helping others; from assisting with language translations in the Thailand refugee camps of the 1970s to volunteering countless hours toward the Iu Mien community of Sacramento, California. In honor of Jimmy’s philanthropy, this scholarship hopes to award an Iu-Mien high school student in need of financial assistance to further their education toward a career in philanthropy.

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNT: $500**

**Eligibility**
Iu-Mien students graduating from high school by June 2018 that have maintained a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher and are planning to attend a post-secondary institution are eligible to apply.

**To Apply**
Applicants must submit an application along with supporting documents (Refer to the application package for details):
- Completed “All About You Q&A”
- Short Essay
- Minimum of one Letter of Recommendation
- Sealed official transcript
- Resume

All application packages must be completed and **POSTMARKED by July 6, 2018**.

Submit your application package by e-mail to: jimmyphanhscholarship@gmail.com

**OR**

Send by mail to: IMSC Jimmy Phanh Memorial Scholarship
Iu Mien Community Services
P.O. Box 245693
Sacramento, CA 95829
Iu-Mien Student Conference
Jimmy Phanh Memorial Scholarship

APPLICATION
Application postmark deadline: July 6, 2018

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name
First Name
MI

Mailing Address

City
State
Zip Code

Email Address

Home Phone
Cell Phone
( ) -
( ) -

Date of Birth
Place of Birth

Name of Present School
City, State

SCHOLASTIC GOALS

____ Trade/Technical School
____ Community College
____ 4-year College/University
____ Other, (please explain) __________________________________________________

INTENDED FIELD OF STUDY

SCHOOLS TO WHICH YOU INTEND TO APPLY (Please indicate if you have been accepted)

________________________________________
________________________________________

3
### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

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### COMMUNITY/CLUB ACTIVITIES

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

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### HONORS & AWARDS RECEIVED TO DATE

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### SCHOLARSHIPS (List all scholarship awards you have applied for and/or received)

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ALL ABOUT YOU Q&A (short answer format)

Please attach a document with your responses to all of the following questions:

- **Culture**
  - What difficulties have the Iu-Mien people faced since arriving to the United States?
  - What issues have you observed in your Iu-Mien community?
  - How would you preserve the Iu-Mien culture?

- **Leadership**
  - What does it mean to be a leader?
  - In what ways have you contributed to the Iu-Mien community?

- **Family**
  - What was a struggle/difficulty your family faced and how did you overcome it?

- **Academics**
  - Why is achieving an education important?
  - What motivates you to pursue a higher education?

SHORT ESSAY

Please attach a short essay (1 page minimum, double-spaced, 12-pt font) responding to ONE of the following essay prompts. Be sure to address questions in the prompt you select (either A, B, or C).

A. What are some cultural obstacles you experienced that make you who you are today? Please mention how you react when people ask, "what is Mien?"

B. Why do you think you deserve to win this scholarship? Please include accomplishments you are proud of and challenges you have faced.

C. How would you make a difference in your community if you were awarded a million dollars?

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Include a strong letter of recommendation for this scholarship from: a fellow student, teacher, community member or family member. Please have the letter address the following:

- Period of acquaintance
- Your strengths, qualifications, and achievements
- A personal evaluation of your philanthropic potential
- Any substantial information he/she wishes to provide us to aid our selection process.

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Please attach a sealed transcript from your high school registrar. Unofficial transcripts will not be accepted.

RESUME

Please attach a resume to your application package. This serves to enhance our understanding of your accomplishments and interests.

Thank you for applying for the IMSC Jimmy Phanh Memorial Scholarship. We appreciate your time in completing the application and we look forward to reviewing your application. Signing here confirms that everything you submit in this application packet is true and accurate. Any false information provided may be subject to dismissal of scholarship awards.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

X
Our Beloved Jimmy Phanh

Jimmy Phanh was born on May 5, 1962 to village leader and Taoist priest father Fou Tong Saephanh, and mother Nai Feuy Saelee in Saybouri, Laos. He was the eldest son of 8 siblings; 3 sisters and 5 brothers. Jimmy helped his father’s village escape to Thailand in 1979 when Laos fell to communist rule and was no longer safe. Educated in the schools of Laos, he later helped hundreds of refugees in the Ban Vinai Thailand camp learn English and translate family needs. Years later across the Pacific, he would help many in Sacramento, California’s freshly resettled, 12,000-member Iu Mien community finish school, find jobs, and cope with generational and cultural issues.

Jimmy was instrumental in founding the United Iu Mien Community, Inc. to advocate for his people and the annual Iu-Mien Student Conference, which has now guided thousands of young Iu Mien Americans to college.

"In Laos, your tool is your hands -- here, it's the brain.” Jimmy was quoted saying to a local newspaper in 2000. His active community role landed him a position as job developer for Sacramento Lao Family Community Inc., his primary occupation for 20 years. In the months before his untimely death, Jimmy -- whose family has a strawberry farm -- went from farm to farm educating Iu Mien farmers how to grow fruit without pesticides.

Jimmy passed at the age of 47 on June 10, 2009 in Sacramento California. He is survived by his sons Captain Kao Saeteurn, USMC, and SeangZe “KC” Phanh; daughters Emily Saelee, Karen Saeteurn and Nai-Chiem Phanh. He impressed many with his deep and abiding concern for the Iu Mien people and his work helping to ensure that future generations of the Mien have every opportunity to be successful. His positive spirit, humorous nature and commitment to the Iu Mien community will be forever remembered.