



IU-MIEN STUDENT CONFERENCE

Hero Artist Scholarship Award

In honor and loving memory of Brian Tha Saechao, the Iu Mien Student Conference (IMSC) Committee has created the Iu Mien Student Conference Hero Artist Scholarship Award. Brian was a former IMSC Chairperson, a tireless community leader, and a very skilled artist. He worked with the Iu Mien Senior Social Group and loved to draw. In addition, he was the editor, director, and producer of the first and only IMSC movie. Years ago, he had hopes of one day creating an art scholarship for worthy Iu Mien students. Today, we hope that this scholarship fulfills his dream and preserves his endearing memory, legacy, and spirit forever.

IMSC understands that everyone will not excel scholastically and may embody talents elsewhere. This scholarship emphasizes the student's artistic talents and interest first and foremost. However, IMSC also considers the individual's conscience about the community. Iu Mien high school seniors who are active in the community and possess skills in the vast, diverse arts and entertainment field are encouraged to apply.

ELIGIBILITY

Iu Mien high school seniors who have maintained an overall 2.0 GPA or higher and are planning to attend a post-secondary institution after high school are eligible.

TO APPLY

Applicants must submit an Iu Mien Student Conference Hero Artist Scholarship Award application along with the following supporting documents:

- Sample work from the Arts and Entertainment Field (refer to application for topics)
- Signed Letter of Certification from supervisor where community service event was completed (as listed in your application)
- Sealed official transcript

All application packages must be completed and postmarked by **May 2, 2025**.
Depending on recipient pool, at least one scholarship will be awarded, minimum \$500.

Submit your application package by mail to:
Iu Mien Community Services
P.O. Box 245693
Sacramento, CA 95824

Contact us:

heroartistscholarship@gmail.com
www.heroartist.unitediumien.org

The Iu Mien Student Conference Hero Artist Scholarship Award APPLICATION

Please type or print in black/blue ink. Submit original application plus additional documents.

Application postmark deadline: **May 2, 2025**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	MI
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Mailing Address		
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City, State and Zip Code		
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Email Address		
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Home Phone	Cell Phone	
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Date of Birth	Place of Birth	
Name of Present School		City, State
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SCHOLASTIC GOALS

Trade/Technical School
 Community College
 4-year College/University
 Other (please explain) _____

Intended Field(s) of Study

Schools to which you have applied or been accepted

SAMPLE WORK TOPICS

Briefly describe each submission, i.e. how it was created, your vision, and inspiration.

Fine Arts/ Visual Arts/ Graphic Design

For example: drawing, painting, sculpture, architecture, crafts, photography, and poetry

Fashion/Textile Art

For example: garment design, costumes, and embroidering

Film or Video

For example: video editing or filmmaking

Performing Arts

For example: singing, dancing, or playing a musical instrument

You may also submit work samples that are not listed. The selection committee will determine its qualification.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Please input the contact information for the entity/entities that you worked for and describe the community service that you performed. Please provide a separate attachment, if necessary.

Community Service Project #1

Name of Organization: _____

Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Description & Impact of Community Service Project:

Community Service Project #2

Name of Organization: _____

Supervisor: _____

Supervisor's Phone #: _____ Email Address: _____

Description & Impact of Community Service Project:

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

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

Do you authorize the Hero Artist Scholarship Foundation to use your sample work for promotional purposes, i.e. post on Foundation website. YES NO

Thank you for applying for the Iu-Mien Student Conference Hero Artist Scholarship Award. We appreciate your time in completing the application and we look forward to reviewing your application.

Signing here confirms that everything on this application is accurate. Any false information provided may be subject to disqualification.

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE



Cero **A**rtist, this is what people close to Brian knew him as. Brian Thon Tha Saechao was born on December 29, 1981 in San Jose, CA to Vietnam War refugees: Fouta and Gain Kouei Saechao. He was the third oldest of four siblings. Throughout his childhood, he showed signs of promising artistic talent. He always had a propensity to create quality works of art. In addition, positivity and caring for others were two of his many traits. He grew to become a dedicated Mien community leader and a committed professional social worker.

At a very young age, his parents moved him to Lodi, CA, where a small Iu-Mien community exists. He spent the majority of his life in Lodi and graduated from Tokay High School and San Joaquin Delta Community College. While attending community college, he taught an after school art enrichment program for at risk elementary students. This gave him an avenue to connect his love and passion for art and philanthropy for a single benevolent cause.

When he attended San Francisco State University in 2003, he acquired his first real taste of life away from a small city. In 2006, he graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian American/Ethnic Studies. Afterward, he moved onto Sacramento State University and graduated with Honors in Social Work in 2009. For his Thesis project, he created an illustrated children's book, which portrayed a culturally lost Mien student adjusting to life in America.

While attending college in 2003, he started to become an integral part of the Iu-Mien Student Conference (IMSC) and the Mien community in general. Actually, a year earlier due to his artistic prowess, he was hired to design the annual student conference program booklet—he architected numerous future editions. He was the Vice-Chairperson from 2004-2005 and was Chairperson in 2006. The student conference was a critical, life changing aspect of his life. He discovered an avenue to assist and advance the Mien Community, showcase his talents, and meet the love of his life.

While trying to obtain an IMSC officer position in 2003, he met Fam Seng Chao. They both were elected to officer positions but the real love connection came afterwards. About a year later, while Brian and Fam continued their volunteer efforts to improve the lives and likelihoods of young Mien people in the Sacramento community, they established a fulfilling bond and fell in love. In 2005, Fam was the Chairperson for the student conference and Brian was the Vice-Chairperson. They were a great team then and onward.

Even though, he grew up in a refugee family, struggling to adapt to a new world, he was always in good spirits and matured to help the less fortunate. Brian held various jobs and community service positions that involved taking care of others and displaying his artistic talents. Other than being apart of IMSC, he positively affected the Iu-Mien Senior Social group, the Hmong, Mien, Lao Communities Action Network (HMLCAN), the San Joaquin Delta College Graphic/Liberal Arts Association, and the Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) AmeriCorps, to name a few. He has worked for Napa County Child Welfare Services, St. Francis Home for Children, Mather Community Campus, and River Oak Center for Children.

Before the tragic drowning of his 2 year old son, Raphael, and himself on October 12, 2012, he was the Lead Program Coordinator for Iu-Mien Community Services (IMCS). This organization was inspired by Brian's suggestion, vision, and tireless commitment to the Mien community and decided to honor him by renaming itself to IMCS. In loving memory of Brian and Raphael, his surviving wife named their second son, Brian Raphael. Brian is in a happier place now, forever living by his motto, "Always B Positive." If we all contribute in small and meaningful ways, the world would be a better place.