



The Vietnamese Culture & Science Association Presents

# 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Program

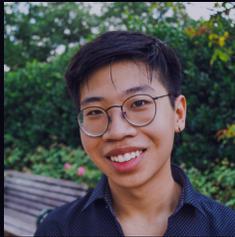
Keynote Speaker



**Dr. Xuyen Phan**  
2004 VVDV Honoree

**Purpose:**

*To recognize the academic achievements of local Houston area Vietnamese American high school graduates who were either valedictorians or salutatorians of their respective schools.*



Bellaire Medical  
Dr. Ho Ngoc Tram Dr. Ho Phan Ha  
Dr. Ho Phan Nam Dr. Ho Phan Viet



Dr. Robert Quang Le  
Michael Dao, CPA



FUNDED IN PART BY  
THE CITY OF HOUSTON  
THROUGH HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE





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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

<b>10:00 am - 11:00 am</b>	<i>Reception</i> <i>Tiếp Đón Quan Khách</i>
<b>11:00 am - 11:10 am</b>	<i>Procession</i> <i>Phần Diễn Hành của các em Học Sinh Xuất Sắc</i>
<b>11:10 am - 11:20 am</b>	<i>Opening Ceremony</i> <i>Nghi Thức Khai Mạc</i>
<b>11:20 am - 11:25 am</b>	<i>Welcoming Remarks</i> <i>Lời Chào Mừng Quan Khách</i>
<b>11:25 am - 11:30 am</b>	<i>Recognition of Past Co-Chairs</i> <i>Công Nhận Các đồng Chủ Tịch trong Quá Khứ</i>
<b>11:30 am - 11:45 am</b>	<i>Acknowledgement of Special Guests and Sponsors</i> <i>Phần Cảm Tạ Mạnh Thường Quân</i>
<b>11:45 am - 11:50 am</b>	<i>VVDV TikTok Video and VCSA Highlights Presentation</i> <i>Phần trình chiếu của VCSA</i>
<b>11:50 am - 12:10 pm</b>	<i>Keynote Speech by Dr. Xuyen Phan</i> <i>Diễn Văn của Diễn Giả Bác sĩ Xuyên Phan</i>
<b>12:10 pm - 12:40 pm</b>	<i>Entertainment by Hai Yen and Lion Dance</i> <i>Cơm Trưa và Chương trình Văn Nghệ</i>
<b>12:40 pm - 1:40 pm</b>	<i>Recognition Program</i> <i>Lễ Tuyên Dương Học Sinh Xuất Sắc</i>
<b>1:40 pm - 1:50 pm</b>	<i>Remarks from Award Recipients</i> <i>Phần phát biểu của Học sinh Xuất Sắc</i>
<b>1:50 pm - 2:10 pm</b>	<i>Rose Ceremony and Closing Remarks</i> <i>Phần Tạ Ôn Cha Mẹ và Bế Mạc</i>

# ABOUT VCSCA



## Introduction

The Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Vietnamese-American and Canadian organization founded in 1990. It has over 650 members, consisting mainly young Vietnamese American and Canadian professionals, high school and college students in the US and Canada. Based in Houston, VCSCA has several other chapters located in Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Minneapolis/St. Paul, San Diego, Washington DC, Toronto, and Vancouver, Canada.

## Mission Statement

The Vietnamese Culture and Science Association promotes excellence in education, leadership and skills development through culture and science. Our organization encourages multi-generational and cross-cultural collaborations. We foster civic participation in the mainstream and Vietnamese community.

## Objectives

- Preserve and promote Vietnamese heritage and culture for Vietnamese-American and Canadian young adults and descendants with events such as an annual leadership development camp, an educational excellence recognition program, cultural workshops, concerts and other cultural events
- Promote leadership, collaboration and cooperation among Vietnamese-American and Canadian professionals in developing and exchanging their skills, participating in programs and activities to build a strong Vietnamese community in North America in general
- Encourage participation in community programs and activities and build a strong sense of civic responsibility among Vietnamese Americans and Canadians
- Collaborate with other Asian communities and the mainstream society to enhance understanding and recognition of the Vietnamese culture

## Activities

- Host Vietnamese literature and history classes for young Vietnamese Americans and Canadians to learn more about their heritage and language
- Organize regular cultural events and participate in annual cultural events such as the Children's Mid-Autumn Festival or the Vietnamese Cultural Festival
- Organize the annual national Youth Leadership Development Camp "Lên Đường"
- Partner with health-related institutions to deliver health awareness and substance abuse awareness workshops for Vietnamese community
- Partner with corporations to deliver youth leadership development programs and mentorship programs
- Participate in community activities such as charity fundraising events, Vietnamese New Year (Tết) festivals, and other Asian communities' events

**LEADERSHIP . CULTURE . EDUCATION . EXCELLENCE . VOLUNTEERISM**

## Contact Information

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703-598-9676 (Washington D.C.) | 416-697-1472 (Toronto, Canada) | (778) 840-8743 (Vancouver)

# VCSA President's Letter

Dear Distinguished Dignitaries; Honored Guests; School Administrators; Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon Honorees and their families; and Friends of VCSA:

It is my esteemed honor to welcome you all to the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association's Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon.

Our Youth Excellence Recognition Program began in 1997 as a way to honor the Valedictorians and Salutatorians of Vietnamese descent throughout Houston and the surrounding areas. During our program's twenty-five years, we have honored over 600 Valedictorians and Salutatorians. Many of our past honorees have continued to show excellence by achieving success in their professional careers; becoming advocates for their communities, and returning to volunteer with VCSA. Our keynote speaker this year, Dr. Xuyen Phan, is one example of excellence. Dr. Phan is a past honoree—now a physician—who has always found the time to continually help with our Youth Excellence Recognition Program.



The Youth Excellence Recognition Program is one of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association's Flagship Programs that embodies our core values of Leadership, Culture, Education, Excellence, and Volunteerism. Each year, the event is organized and executed by past honorees. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to this year's two co-chairs, Thuan Doan and Katelyn Nguyen, for taking the time out of their busy studies to lead our program. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped make today's festivities possible.

This past year has been a very difficult year for many in a multitude of ways. I sincerely thank our event sponsors and supporters for your continued contributions. VCSA relies heavily on grants, sponsorships, and donations for our programs. Your generosity allows us to continue to provide meaningful programs benefiting the community.

With deepest gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Trinh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Trinh, Teresa Tố-Trinh  
Executive Board President  
Vietnamese Culture and Science Association

# Ngày Truyền Thống Hội Văn Hóa Khoa Học Việt Nam 2021

Kể từ biến cố tháng 4 năm 1975, hàng triệu người Việt Nam đã phải bỏ nước ra đi để tìm kiếm một đời sống tự do và trong số này, khoảng hơn phân nửa đã đến định cư tại Hoa Kỳ. Chỉ trong một thời gian ngắn, những người di dân Việt Nam tại Hoa Kỳ không những đã nhanh chóng ổn định đời sống mà còn đóng góp cho xã hội tạm dung nhiều thành quả quan trọng về mọi phương diện như kinh tế, giáo dục, xã hội, khoa học, kỹ thuật, v.v... Trong tác phẩm "Vietnamese Americans" do cơ sở Rourke Corporation tại Florida, tác giả Susan Auerbach đã viết: "Các thành quả của người Việt trong khuôn khổ học đường, trong lãnh vực khoa học kỹ thuật, và trong phạm vi kinh doanh đã gây phấn khởi cho những người thuộc các sắc dân khác vừa đến định cư tại Hoa Kỳ." Trong một tác phẩm khác với nhan đề "The Vietnamese Experience in America" do cơ sở xuất bản viện đại học Indiana tại Indianapolis, ông Paul Rutledge nhận định là "với sự thành công nhanh chóng của người Việt, chỉ trong một thời gian ngắn, xã hội Hoa Kỳ sẽ được hưởng mối lợi gấp nhiều lần số ngân khoản chính phủ đã trợ giúp họ trong vấn đề định cư."

Thật vậy, như những nhận xét của các tác giả nêu trên, người Việt tỵ nạn đã thành công khá nhanh chóng so với những người di dân khác và thành công về mọi lãnh vực, đặc biệt tại học đường. Hầu hết những người di dân Việt Nam đã đến Hoa Kỳ với một số vốn nghèo nàn về Anh ngữ. Tuy nhiên, với tinh thần hiếu học đã ăn sâu vào tâm khảm người Việt từ bao thế hệ, chỉ trong một thời gian ngắn ngủi, họ đã trở nên những học sinh, sinh viên xuất sắc tại các trường trung, đại học và sau khi tốt nghiệp, đã mang khả năng của mình để cống hiến cho xã hội Hoa Kỳ. Trong hơn bốn thập niên qua, thế hệ con em của những người di dân Việt Nam đầu tiên đã dần dần trưởng thành và đang cố gắng nối tiếp truyền thống cha anh để đạt được những thành quả tốt đẹp trong sự học.



Đầu năm 1997, qua sự liên lạc với ban giám hiệu các trường trung học ở Houston và vùng phụ cận, hội VHKhVN được biết số học sinh Việt Nam tốt nghiệp với thứ hạng thủ khoa (valedictorian) và á khoa (salutatorian), niên khóa 1996-1997, chiếm một tỉ lệ khá cao so với các sắc dân khác. Trước sự kiện này, hội VHKhVN đã tổ chức một buổi tiệc vào ngày 3 tháng 8 năm 1997 để tuyên dương và phát thưởng các em học sinh ưu tú kể trên. Mục đích chính của buổi tiệc là để khuyến khích tất cả các học sinh, sinh viên Việt Nam chuyên cần hơn trong sự học. Trong buổi tiệc, tiến sĩ Lee Brown, cựu thị trưởng thành phố Houston, đã phát biểu trên diễn đàn là ông rất ngạc nhiên và vô cùng thán phục trước thành tích vẻ vang của các học sinh người Mỹ gốc Việt. Ý nghĩa và sự thành công của buổi tiệc năm đầu tiên đã gây được tiếng vang đáng kể, không những tại thành phố Houston mà còn lan đến các thành phố có đông người Việt cư ngụ tại Hoa Kỳ và tại một vài quốc gia khác. Sau đó, được sự khích lệ của quý đồng hương, hội VHKhVN quyết định sẽ cố gắng tiếp tục chương trình tuyên dương cùng phát thưởng các học sinh ưu tú hằng năm. Chương trình này sẽ được bao gồm trong các buổi tiệc với danh xưng "Ngày Truyền Thống Hội VHKhVN," được tổ chức vào mỗi đầu tháng Tám. Trong 25 năm vừa qua, Ngày Truyền Thống đã có dịp tuyên dương thành tích xuất sắc của hơn 750 em học sinh trung học gốc Việt tại Houston và vùng phụ cận. Năm nay, hội VHKhVN hân hạnh giới thiệu thành tích xuất sắc của 48 em học sinh ưu tú của niên khóa 2020 - 2021.

Đặc biệt năm nay là năm kỷ niệm lần thứ 25 Hội thực hiện chương trình ý nghĩa này và công tác tổ chức do chính các em học sinh xuất sắc các niên học trước phụ trách. Với chương trình tuyên dương và phát thưởng các học sinh Việt Nam ưu tú, hội VHKhVN hy vọng sẽ ít nhiều góp phần vào việc khuyến khích các em trau dồi sự học để làm thăng tiến cộng đồng người Việt chúng ta tại Houston và vùng phụ cận.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual VVDV's Featured Keynote Speaker

# DR. XUYÊN PHAN

Dr. Xuyen Phan is a dedicated, driven, and ambitious individual. In her lifetime, not only has she found success in the pursuit of her own career goals, but she also plays a tremendous role in giving back to her community. Dr. Xuyen Phan attended The University of Texas at Austin, where she majored in biochemistry. After graduating in 2008, she focused her efforts on teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade science at Manor ISD. Besides teaching, she also served as Chair of the science department and spent time as an instructional coach tutoring students and developing curriculum for 8<sup>th</sup> grade science and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts.

After her years of teaching, Dr. Phan continued her education at Texas A&M Health Science Center, and completed her Medical degree in 2018. While pursuing her doctorate degree, Dr. Xuyen Phan held various leadership positions. In 2015, Dr. Phan served as a College Medicine Ambassador and was President of STAT (Stand Tall Against Tobacco). In 2017, she became a member of the prestigious Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Currently, Dr. Phan is completing her residency at the Conroe Family Medicine Residency where she is pursuing the Under-Served Medicine Track. After graduating from the program, she began her practice as a physician with the Kelsey Seybold Clinic and is now board certified in Family Medicine.

Throughout her years of teaching and medical school, Dr. Phan has always found the time to give back to her community through VCSA. Here, Dr. Phan began her involvement with VCSA by being recognized as an honoree herself. Dr. Phan then served as chair for VVDV in 2005 and 2006, and was program manager for more than 8 years. Beyond her chair and manager positions, she has also volunteered her time with VCSA through the TOPS Tobacco Obesity Prevention Summit, Sunflower Seed Mission Trip, and the Len Duong Camp.

Bác sĩ Xuyên Phan là một thành viên của VVDV rất tận tâm, có định hướng và tham vọng. Trong cuộc đời của bác sĩ Xuyên, cô không chỉ đạt thành công trong việc theo đuổi mục tiêu sự nghiệp của bản thân mà còn đóng một vai trò to lớn trong việc cống hiến cho cộng đồng của mình. Bác sĩ Xuyên Phan theo học tại University of Texas tại Austin, nơi cô theo học chuyên ngành hóa sinh. Sau khi tốt nghiệp năm 2008, cô đi dạy một thời gian, cô dạy môn khoa học lớp 8 tại Manor ISD. Ngoài công việc giảng dạy, cô còn là Chủ nhiệm bộ môn khoa học và dành thời gian làm huấn luyện viên hướng dẫn kèm cặp học sinh và xây dựng chương trình giảng dạy môn khoa học lớp 8 và môn ngữ văn lớp 6 và lớp 7.

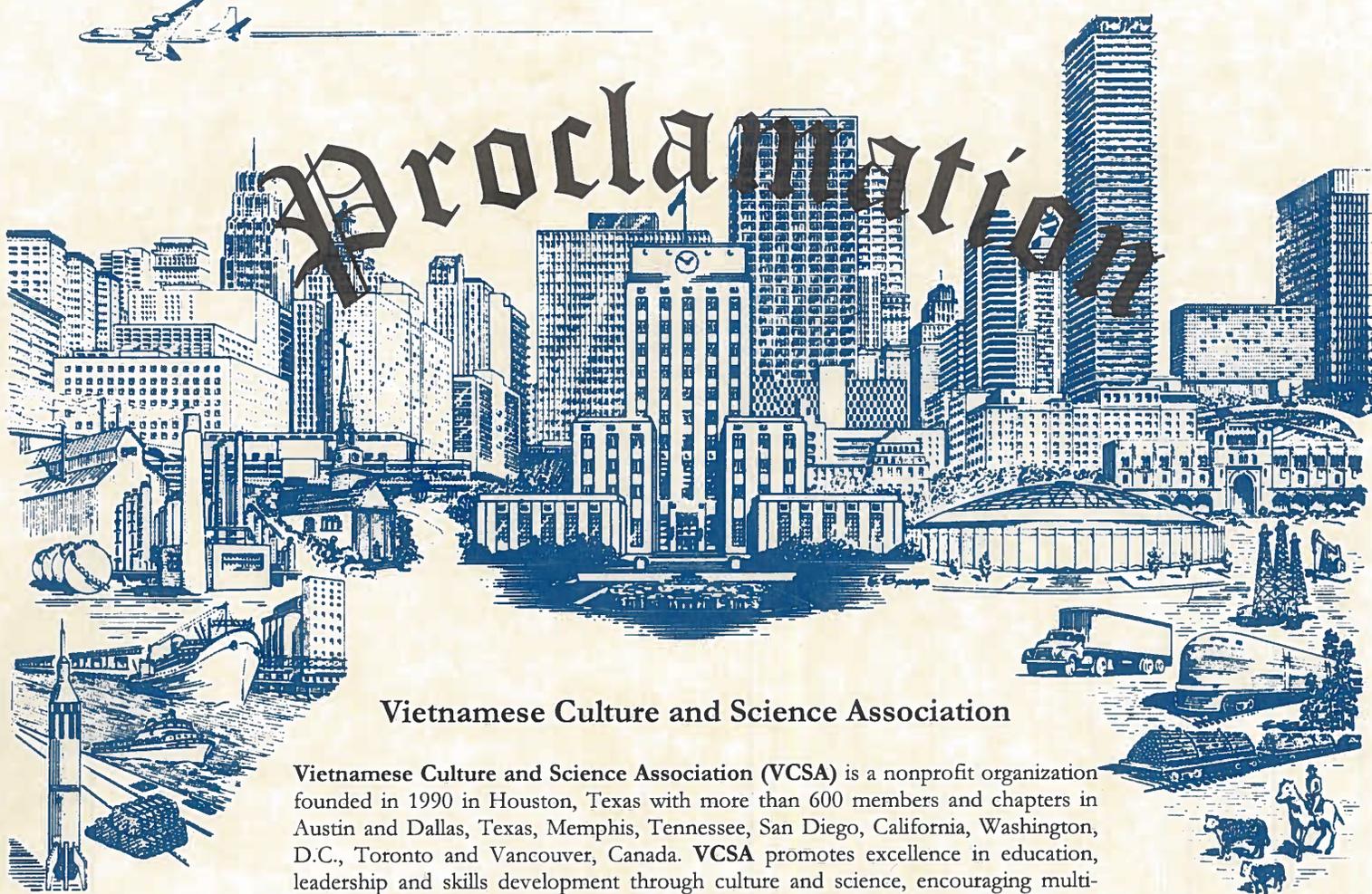
Sau nhiều năm giảng dạy, Bác sĩ Phan trở lại theo tiếp tục học ngành Y khoa tại Đại học Y Khoa thuộc Texas A&M và hoàn thành bằng bác sĩ (MD) vào năm 2018. Trong thời gian theo học trường Y Khoa, dù rất bận rộn, bs Xuyên Phan đã giữ nhiều vai trò lãnh đạo khác nhau. Năm 2015, bs Phan từng là Đại sứ Y khoa và là Chủ tịch của STAT (Đứng cao chống lại thuốc lá). Năm 2017, cô trở thành thành viên của Tổ chức Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Hiện tại, Bs. Phan đang hoàn tất chương trình thực tập tại Khu dân cư Y tế Gia đình Conroe. Sau khi tốt nghiệp chương trình, cô bắt đầu hành nghề bác sĩ tại Phòng khám Kelsey Seybold và hiện đã được cấp bằng hành nghề Y Khoa. Trong suốt những năm giảng dạy và học y khoa, bs. Phan luôn tìm thấy thời gian để cống hiến cho cộng đồng qua các sinh hoạt của hội VHKK. Lần đầu bác sĩ Xuyên Phan đã được Hội tuyên dương là Học sinh xuất sắc khi cô tốt nghiệp thủ khoa trung học, sau đó cô trở lại làm thiện nguyện viên và làm đồng trưởng ban tổ Chức trong các năm 2005 và 2006 và đã tham gia vào công tác tổ chức trong suốt 8 năm qua. Ngoài ra cô còn tham gia tích cực các chương trình khác của Hội VHKK như Picnic hè Trẻ Em Chống Béo Phì, và Trại Lên Đường. Cô cũng có tham gia chương trình của Sunflower mission nữa. Cô là tấm gương sáng ngời của tinh thần thiện nguyện để phục vụ cộng đồng và giúp ích tha nhân.



# **Letters from Public Officials**

## **Thư Chào Mừng của Đại Diện Chính Quyền**



## Vietnamese Culture and Science Association

**Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSA)** is a nonprofit organization founded in 1990 in Houston, Texas with more than 600 members and chapters in Austin and Dallas, Texas, Memphis, Tennessee, San Diego, California, Washington, D.C., Toronto and Vancouver, Canada. **VCSA** promotes excellence in education, leadership and skills development through culture and science, encouraging multi-generational and cross-cultural collaborations to foster civic participation in Vietnamese American communities.

**VCSA's** Annual Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon annually recognizes all local Vietnamese-American students who graduated as valedictorians or salutatorians at their respective high schools in the Houston area and surrounding communities. The purpose of the event is to encourage the youth to excel in academics and promote education to younger generations. The City of Houston has been recognized as the second-largest Vietnamese-American community in the United States with more than 150,000 residents and more than half of the population are less than 25 years of age. **VCSA** recognizes the need to encourage the youth to excel in education and contribute to the community.

On August 8, 2021, the **Vietnamese Culture and Science Association** will host its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vietnamese-American Youth Recognition Luncheon at Kim Son Ballroom. The City of Houston commends and appreciates the **Vietnamese Culture and Science Association** for continuing to invest in and encourage the educational aspirations of the youth and extends best wishes on this auspicious occasion.

Therefore, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim August 8, 2021, as,

## Vietnamese Culture and Science Association Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021.

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor of the City of Houston

# Proclamation

## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR CITY OF MANVEL

*Whereas*, a nonprofit organization founded in 1990, the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSA), strives to promote harmony and cooperation among Vietnamese Americans, especially in the fields of culture and science; and

*Whereas*, the VCSA provides a multifaceted environment where young Vietnamese American professionals can exchange ideas, share skills, and participate in the building of a strong Vietnamese community; and

*Whereas*, the VCSA is based in Houston, with chapters in Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin in Texas; Dayton, Ohio, San Diego, California; Washington D.C; Toronto, Ontario; and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. VCSA has more than 650 members, the majority of whom are young Vietnamese American professionals in Texas and in other states of the United States and Canada; and,

*Whereas*, on August 8, 2021, the VCSA will sponsor the Twenty-Fifth Annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Program to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding Vietnamese American high school students; and

*Whereas*, the VCSA annually recognizes the academic achievements of Vietnamese American high school students who graduated as either valedictorian or salutatorian of their respective high schools in the Greater Houston Area; and

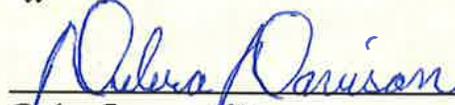
*Now, Therefore*, I, **Debra Davison**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Manvel, Texas, do hereby proclaim August 8, 2021, as



### **“Vietnamese Culture and Science Association Day”**

in the City of Manvel, Brazoria County, Texas.

*In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Manvel to be affixed.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Debra Davison, Mayor*

*July 8, 2021*





# The Senate of The State of Texas

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the salutatorian and valedictorian graduates in the Greater Houston Area who are being honored at the 25th Annual Vietnamese-American Youth Recognition Luncheon on August 8, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Each year, the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association recognizes Vietnamese-American students who have graduated with highest honors from their respective Houston-area high schools; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to honoring students for their achievements, this event aims to encourage the pursuit of academic excellence among area youth and to highlight the importance of civic and community involvement; previous event honorees help chair the event, many of whom continued their ambitious educational paths and went on to become esteemed leaders in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, This year, the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association is honoring 23 valedictorians and 25 salutatorians; these exemplary students have worked hard throughout their years of schooling, and they can reflect with pride on their outstanding accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend all of the salutatorian and valedictorian graduates who are being recognized at the 25th Annual Vietnamese-American Youth Recognition Luncheon and extend to all best wishes for a memorable event; and, be it further

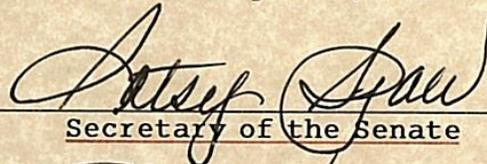
**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for these graduates as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Whitmire



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on August 2, 2021. \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Member, Texas Senate

# The State of Texas



## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The 25th annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association is being held in Houston on August 8, 2021; and

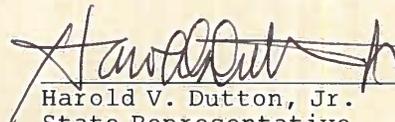
WHEREAS, Home to one of the largest Vietnamese American communities in the nation, Houston is also the headquarters of VCSA, which was founded in 1990 to promote excellence in education, leadership and skills development, and volunteerism through culture and science; over the years, the organization has grown to include chapters in Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, California, Minnesota, Washington, D.C., Toronto, and Vancouver; and

WHEREAS, Each year for a quarter century, VCSA's Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Program has honored Houston area high school students who have recently graduated as valedictorian or salutatorian, and this year's in-person ceremony will also be livestreamed to the Vietnamese community across the nation; it will feature a keynote address by Dr. Xuyen Phan, who was a luncheon honoree in 2004, and the event will recognize 23 valedictorians and 25 salutatorians; and

WHEREAS, Through its commendable efforts, VCSA is inspiring young men and women to excel in education and follow their dreams, and in so doing, it is helping countless young Texans of Vietnamese heritage to build an even brighter future for themselves and their community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 25th annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon be commemorated and that all those taking part in the celebration be extended sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event.





Harold V. Dutton, Jr.  
State Representative  
District 142



*Office of the Mayor  
Sugar Land, Texas  
Certificate of Recognition*

*Presented to:  
Vietnamese Culture and Science Association*

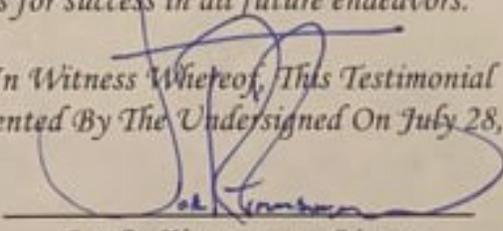
*This Certificate of Recognition is presented to the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association, VCSA annually recognizes the academic achievements of Vietnamese American high school students who graduated as either valedictorian or salutatorian of their respective high schools in the Greater Houston Area.*

*The program also serves to encourage the younger Vietnamese American generations to strive for academic excellence and instill a strong sense of civic responsibility among all Vietnamese-Americans in the Greater Houston area. Every year, previous awardees volunteer to co-chair the event.*

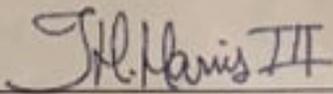
*The City of Sugar Land would like to recognize Kathryn Phung, Dulles High School Class of 2021 Valedictorian and Ann Phan, Dulles High School Class of 2021 Salutatorian for their hard work and achieving excellence, especially during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*I, Joe R. Zimmerman, on behalf of the members of City Council, and by the virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Sugar Land, Texas, do hereby applaud Kathryn Phung, Ann Phan, and all of the VCSA high school students for their accomplishments and look forward to hear even more great things in the future about them. I extend best wishes for success in all future endeavors.*

*In Witness Whereof, This Testimonial  
Is Presented By The Undersigned On July 28, 2021*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Joe R. Zimmerman, Mayor*

*ATTEST*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Thomas Harris III, City Secretary*

# The State of Texas



## RESOLUTION

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RESOLVED, That the 25th annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon be commemorated and that all those taking part in the celebration be extended sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event.



Borris L. Miles  
State Senator  
District 13

SHEILA JACKSON LEE  
18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, TEXAS  
COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
Ranking Member  
Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and  
Investigations  
Immigration and Border Security

HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security  
Technologies

Counterterrorism and Intelligence

BUDGET COMMITTEE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

HELSINKI COMMISSION MEMBER

VICE CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE  
CAUCUS

SENIOR WHIP  
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR  
CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S  
CAUCUS

August 8, 2021

Greetings:

On behalf of the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I am delighted to congratulate and extend my personal greetings to the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSA) on the occasion of their Twenty-Fifth Annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Program. Today we are celebrating the accomplishments of outstanding Vietnamese American high school students.

I want to applaud the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association for their commitment to encourage the younger generation to excel in education and to contribute to the community overall. The City of Houston and the 18th Congressional District truly appreciate your promotion of excellence in education, leadership and skills development, and volunteerism through culture and science as well as your encouragement of multigenerational and cross-cultural collaborations by cultivating civic participation in mainstream and Vietnamese America. Your dedication to encourage the younger Vietnamese American generations to strive for academic excellence and to instill a strong sense of civic responsibility among all Vietnamese Americans in the Greater Houston area is truly praiseworthy.

Thank you, Vietnamese Culture and Science Association for being an active voice in our community. Thank you for your dedication to excellence and your untiring efforts in reminding our community that unity is not just imperative, but a necessity. Your work and dedication are truly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of the United States Congress.



Sincerely,

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

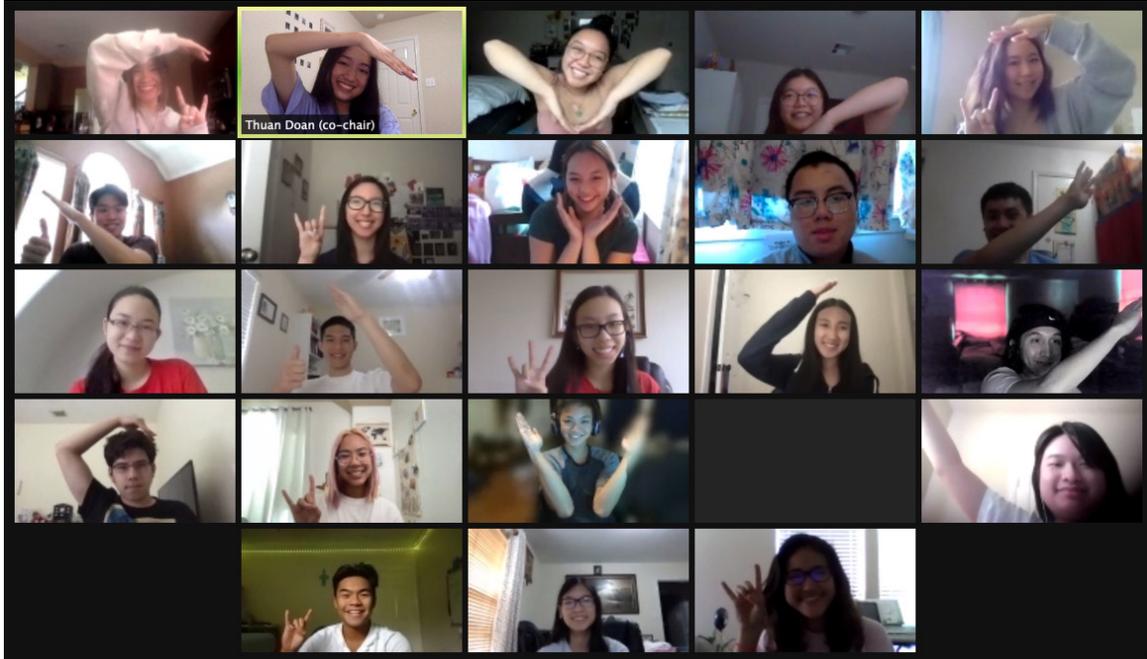
WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2187 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3816

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1919 Smith Street, Suite 1180  
Houston, TX 77002  
(713) 655-0050

HEIGHTS OFFICE:  
420 West 19th Street  
Houston, TX 77008  
(713) 861-4070

FIFTH WARD OFFICE:  
4300 Lyons Ave., Suite 200  
Houston, TX 77020  
(713) 227-7740

# MEET OUR 2021 HONOREES!



Before we showcase our honorees, here are some blast-from-the-past childhood photos of them. Oh! Have they come a long way!



Pearl Tran

Jaden Tran

Chelsea Nguyen

Cody Chou

Nhi Le



Charles Nguyen

Nikita Villegas

Christina Hoang

# ANH KIẾN NGUYỄN

## Salutatorian

Manvel High School | Alvin ISD



Son of  
**Mr. Thanh Nguyễn**  
**Mrs. Loan Trần**

### *Anh Kiến's Accolades and Hobbies*

AP Scholar, National Merit Finalist, UIL Science Medal, Alvin ISD Local Scholarships, Brazoria County Junior Achievement Scholarship, NHS Vice President, Marching Band, Viet Ngu Hung Vuong Teacher Assistant, and Piano

Video games, anime, tennis, hanging out with friends

### *What three words describe you best?*

Chill, Determined, Practical

### *What significant achievement you are most proud of?*

Attending college without worrying about student debt or making my parents pay for it.

### *What are you looking forward to in college?*

I've never been to the East Coast, so I'm excited to explore the surrounding city, tourist spots, and local restaurants.

### *What are your goals for the future?*

My goals after college are to find a job doing what I love, with possible careers in space exploration or cybersecurity. I want to do work that improves society while allowing me to live comfortably and happily.



**PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**

**Major: Electrical Engineering**

# ANN THANH PHAN

## Salutatorian

Dulles High School | Fort Bend ISD

### *Ann's Accolades and Hobbies*

National AP Scholar, AP Capstone Diploma, National Merit Scholarship, Equitable Excellence Scholarship, Schlumberger Founders Merit Award, Fort Bend ISD Gifted & Talented Mentorship, Baylor College of Medicine Summer Research Reimagined, Sewa International Lead Internship, etc.

I love to do crafts, bake with my sister, and spend time with my friends and family.

Daughter of  
**Mr. Hải Phan**  
**Mrs. Uyên-Chi Phan**

### *What three words describe you best?*

Ambitious, Compassionate, Driven

### *What significant achievement you are most proud of?*

Served as the Co-Founder of Fort Bend Students United for Reproductive Freedom, an organization that helped passed a more comprehensive health education curriculum for Texas public schools.

### *What are you looking forward to in college?*

I feel very grateful to to even attend university, and I want to make the most of this opportunity to pursue my academic and professional goals

### *What are your goals for the future?*

I plan to become an OB/GYN, promoting reproductive health and using science as a tool for advocacy. More than anything else, I want to continue using my education and experience to pursue community service and public good.



 **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**Major: Biology and Public Health on the Pre-Medicine Track**

# ASHA LU LAMBA

*Valedictorian*

Cypress Ridge High School | Cypress-Fairbanks ISD

**Asha's Accolades and Hobbies**  
Outstanding Achievement in Chemistry, AP Scholar with Honor, Kirk Elementary Scholarship, Key Club, Model UN, Interact Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Student Council, Orchestra

I love to bake (although I'm painfully subpar at it), play guitar, watch cat videos, rock-climb, read interesting books, and write stories whenever I happen to get inspiration.

Daughter of  
**Mr. Rahul Lamba**  
**Mrs. Annie Anh Thu Lamba**

**What three words describe you best?**  
Persistent, Compassionate, Anticipatory

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**  
My time as president of my school's Key Club. When I was younger, I would shy away from opportunities to be at the forefront of an initiative, but participating in Key Club pushed me to alter this sentiment. My experiences taught me the true meaning of leadership and how teamwork can truly make anything happen.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**  
All I want out of college is to learn as much as possible. I hope that every day is filled with discoveries, no matter how big or small.

**What are your goals for the future?**  
Academically, I am planning on pursuing a career as an attorney because law and the court system has always fascinated me. Regardless of whatever path I end up taking, all I truly want out of life is to leave a positive impact on those around me.



**Major: Neuroscience**

# CECILIA MAI

*Salutatorian*

North Shore High School | Galena Park ISD

**Cecilia's Accolades and Hobbies**

AP Scholar, UIL Calculator Applications State Champion, Rodeo Scholarship, Dell Scholarship, UIL Calculator Applications State Champion, PTA Scholarship

I like to read books, watch Run BTS episodes, and spend time with my sisters.

Daughter of  
**Mr. Tuyền Mai**  
**Mrs. Tuyết Mai**

**What three words describe you best?**  
Understanding, Relaxed, Open-Minded

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**  
Being a two-time UIL state champion in Calculator Applications.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**  
To experience a sense of independence in hopes of further developing character and creating lifelong bonds with new people in a new environment by sharing memorable memories.

**What are your goals for the future?**  
I am currently in the process of trying to figure that out myself in terms of career goals, but my personal goals are to become even more self aware and live life with little regrets.



**Major: Computer Science**

# CHARLES TRỌNG ÂN LÊ

*Salutatorian*

South Houston High School | Pasadena ISD

**Charles' Accolades and Hobbies**

Peggy and Bill Shiffick Endowed Scholarship  
Tennis, Golf, National Honor Society

Reading, Watching YouTube Videos about Theology and Philosophy, and taking a siesta.  
Seeing the presence of God within others.

Son of  
**Mr. Peter Lê**  
**Mrs. Cecilia Hoàng**



**What three words describe you best?**

Joyful, Reserved, Persevering

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Reading the entire Catholic Bible from cover to cover.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

To gain more knowledge going through college.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To be the best person that God wants me to be. To do God's will.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ST. THOMAS**  
HOUSTON

**Major: Theology**

# CHELSEA NGUYỄN

*Salutatorian*

Klein Forest High School | Klein ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Thuật Nguyễn**  
**Mrs. Liên Vũ**

**Chelsea's Accolades and Hobbies**

AP Scholar with Distinction, Board of Trustees Recognition, Most Active TRIO ETS Participant, Service Above Self Award, Distinguished Service Award, Behind the Scenes Integrity Award, etc.

Baking, binge-watching shows, listening to music, playing board games, spending time with friends & family, and trying new foods.

**What three words describe you best?**

Reliable, Compassionate, Optimistic

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Making my parents proud of the daughter I've become.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

As cliché as it may sound, I am looking forward to cultivating new friendships, discovering more passions, and growing as an individual.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To become a CRNA (nurse anesthetist). I hope to have many opportunities to travel the world with my family and enjoy what nature has to offer.



**Major: Nursing**

# CHRISTINA VIE HOÀNG

## Valedictorian

Clear Horizons Early College High School | Clear Creek ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Hoa Chi Hoàng**  
**Mrs. Linh Pha Deng**

### **Christina's Accolades and Hobbies**

Volunteer Service Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, 4-Year Superintendent Scholar, Texas Excellence Scholarship, UT Natural Sciences Scholarship, & Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Scholarship

In my free time I like to play volleyball, hang out with my friends, workout, go on walks, and watch Minecraft youtubers.

### **What three words describe you best?**

Ambitious, Optimistic, Adventurous

### **What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Being my school's Student Council Executive President and helping to uplift the student body's spirits throughout my high school experience and especially during the pandemic.

### **What are you looking forward to in college?**

The new experiences that college brings. I can't wait to meet friends, take advantage of opportunities, and explore the city of Austin.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

To make positive differences in the lives of others. I'm planning on pursuing a career in the medical field.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Biochemistry on the  
Pre-Medicine Track**

### **Cody's Accolades and Hobbies**

Gates Scholarship, Horatio Alger National Scholarship, US Chemistry Olympiad National Qualifier, National Institute of Health STEP-UP Biomedical Research Grant, Biochemistry and pesticide research at MIT/Caltech, etc.

Cooking, baking, watching TV, reading old books.  
What makes me smile the most is hanging out with my friends and loved ones.

### **What three words describe you best?**

Curious, Determined, Hopeful

### **What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Leading my Science Olympiad team to compete in the State competition for the past four consecutive years.

### **What are you looking forward to in college?**

I look forward to connecting with new people, students, and friends. More importantly, I wish to learn as much as possible about the world in college.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

To attend medical or graduate school and continue my research interests in cancer. Through academic medicine, I hope to improve the health and well being of the community with my active involvement in clinical research.

# CODY CHOU

## Valedictorian

Spring Early College Academy | Spring ISD

Son of  
**Mr. Wai Chou**  
**Mrs. Miki Chou**



# HARVARD

UNIVERSITY

**Major: Biomedical  
Engineering**

# DON NGUYỄN

*Salutatorian*

Sharpstown International School | Houston ISD

Son of  
**Mr. Hùng Nguyễn**  
**Mrs. Hà Trần**



**What three words describe you best?**

Empathetic, Whimsical, Adaptable

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

I am slowly building up my confidence every day, but my salutatorian speech was the first true challenge where I finished it to the end despite a few mistakes.

Courage and resolve carried me through, and I made it possible.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

To understanding and practicing what it means to be independent. I want to find peace with my Vietnamese roots. I hope that I can find my answers to the numerous questions I have about who I am and who I want to be.

**What are your goals for the future?**

I would like a well-paying job that allows me to keep my self-sufficiency and live comfortably. In life, I most want to find meaning and contribute to the world in some way. I hope to release music one day, all of which cater to what I feel and see the world as.



**SWARTHMORE**

**Major: Undecided**

# JADEN TRẦN

*Salutatorian*

Cypress Christian School | Private School

Son of  
**Mr. Tim Trần**  
**Mrs. Marivic Trần**



**Jaden's Accolades and Hobbies**

Deadline Diligence Award, Distinguished Honor Roll, Defensive MVP Basketball, AP Scholar with Distinction, Varsity Letter in Track, Varsity Letter in Cross Country, Varsity Letter in Swimming, Academic All-State Swimming, etc.

Watching basketball, video games, cooking shows, working out, listening to music, meal-prepping, national parks, and dogs

**What three words describe you best?**

Hardworking, Determined, Compassionate

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Winning third place in the 200 IM Relay at the 2020 State Swim Meet. Despite standing on the lowest spot on the podium, I am very proud to have been apart of that relay, as we were able to turn a basketball guard, a soccer left-fielder, and a new guy, into a state-caliber team.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

Being able to meet new people and the prospect of independence. I'm excited to see what adulthood is like and what life holds for me next.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To love what I do while also being able to financially support myself and those around me.



**TEXAS A&M**  
UNIVERSITY.

**Major: Chemistry**

# JENNIE NHUNG LÊ

## Valedictorian

Morton Ranch High School | Katy ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Hùng Thanh Lê**  
**Mrs. Lan Ngọc Phan**

### *Jennie's Accolades and Hobbies*

George and Mary Hamman Foundation Scholarship, Orchestra, Wrestling, NEHS, NHS, ASLHS, Viola Secret Society, and Lo Duc Youth Ministry

Reading, riding my bike, rock climbing, and creating songs. Looking at old Polaroid photos make me smile!

### *What three words describe you best?*

Charismatic, Humble, Driven

### *What significant achievement you are most proud of?*

Getting into the same school as my best friend!

### *What are you looking forward to in college?*

Being academically challenged and experiencing what it is like to be a college student.

### *What are your goals for the future?*

Being successful as a Physical Therapist, chasing every and any amazing opportunity I get, and also owning my very own dog. I want to continue learning and growing while staying content with myself!



## RICE

Major: Sports Medicine and  
Exercise Physiology

# JOANNA NGUYỄN-TRẦN

## Salutatorian

Alief Taylor High School | Alief ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Thanh Nguyễn**  
**Mrs. Loan Trần**

### *Joanna's Accolades and Hobbies*

Questbridge Scholarship, University Scholarship, Provost Scholarship, National Math Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National Art Honor Society, Student Council, Asian Multicultural Society

Painting, couponing, watching K-dramas, and listening to K-pop.

### *What three words describe you best?*

Funny, Hardworking, Persistent

### *What significant achievement you are most proud of?*

Getting matched to Notre Dame through QuestBridge.

### *What are you looking forward to in college?*

Meeting new people and forming those connections with the faculty and my fellow peers.

### *What are your goals for the future?*

Graduating college and getting into an optometry program. My ultimate life goal is to make a change within the community. I especially want to help those who come from low-income families who don't have access to affordable healthcare.



## UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Major: Science Pre-Professional

# KATHRYN KHAI HUYỀN PHỤNG

## ***Kathryn's Accolades and Hobbies***

Fort Bend Academic Excellence Award, AP Scholar with Distinction, 2021 Texas Academic Decathlon 1st Place Honors 6A Award, Texas Academic Decathlon Scholarship Award, National Merit Finalist, Spanish National Honor Society, National Honor Society, etc.

Singing, learning new languages, baking, eating ice cream, making new friends :)

## ***Valedictorian***

Dulles High School | Fort Bend ISD

Daughter of  
**Mr. Timothy Phụng**  
**Mrs. Kim Đỗ Phụng**



## ***What three words describe you best?***

Exuberant, Dedicated, Night-owl

## ***What significant achievement you are most proud of?***

Winning the Academic Decathlon National Individual Competition in the Honors category. A culmination of many sleepless nights, the award came as both a wonderful surprise and relief.

## ***What are you looking forward to in college?***

I hope to find myself amongst a new crowd full of novel experiences. Through greater independence, I hope to also cultivate a better sense of my own identity.

## ***What are your goals for the future?***

I'd like to combine my interests in healthcare and culture by working to develop more equitable global health programs. In addition, I'm also interested in starting a family and being a foster mom for dogs when the time is right.



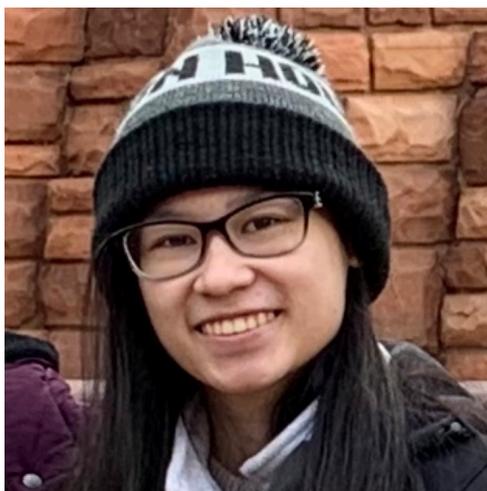
# RICE

**Major: Biochemistry and Cell  
Biology & Genetics**

# LILY LINH NGUYỄN

## ***Salutatorian***

Jersey Village High School | Cypress-Fairbanks ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Duy Nguyễn**  
**Mrs. Kim-Nga Nguyễn**

## ***Lily's Accolades and Hobbies***

AP Scholar with Honor, National Merit Scholar, Science National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, HOPE Club, Memorial Hermann Hospital Volunteer, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Vovinam, etc.

Watching random YouTube videos, cross stitch, and Stardew Valley gaming

## ***What three words describe you best?***

Curious, Diligent, Reliable

## ***What significant achievement you are most proud of?***

Becoming a National Merit Scholar because it is a significant academic achievement that took months of hard work and dedication. It also led to me receiving a scholarship that will take a large financial burden off of my family.

## ***What are you looking forward to in college?***

Experiencing new things, meeting different people, and becoming more independent.

## ***What are your goals for the future?***

At the end of the day, I just want to have a career that I enjoy and have a strong support system in my life.



**Major: Chemistry on the  
Pre-Medicine Track**

# LORIAN TÚ AN ĐỒ

## Salutatorian

Kingwood Park High School | Humble ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Vũ Đố**  
**Mrs. Đoàn Đố**

### **What three words describe you best?**

Outgoing, Witty, Hard-working

### **What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Balancing academics with both club and high school soccer was often exhausting and overwhelming (and I spent many nights asleep on the floor of my bedroom), but I managed to work through it all while still making the most of high school at Friday night football games and homecoming dances.

### **What are you looking forward to in college?**

Starting fresh, creating meaningful and life-long relationships, learning about topics I never knew existed, exploring a new campus and a new city, and most of all, living above a 24-hour Wendy's.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

To have a happy family, to find a purpose and meaning in life, to have a fulfilling career, to learn to appreciate the little things and not take anything for granted, and to love and be loved unconditionally.

### **Lorian's Accolades and Hobbies**

TASCO First-Team All Region, Varsity Soccer Defensive MVP, TASCO 2021 Senior All-Star Player, UIL Academic All-State, UIL First-Team All-District, UIL Soccer State Semifinalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, etc.

Playing soccer, watching all sports, traveling, spending time with friends and family, working out, driving with the windows down, listening to country music.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Business**

# NATALIE THẢO VY LÊ

## Valedictorian

Elsik High School | Alief ISD

### **Natalie's Accolades and Hobbies**

Livestock Rodeo Scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association, Student Council, NHS, SNHS, MNHS, Orchestra, Lend a Hand, American Chemical Society, etc.

Painting and going to the gym B)

Daughter of  
**Ms. Thảo Lê**  
**Mr. Hương Trần**

### **What three words describe you best?**

Ambitious, Innovative, Leader

### **What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Becoming Valedictorian.

### **What are you looking forward to in college?**

Joining clubs and organizations that will allow me to expand my knowledge about different cultures as well as allowing me to connect with my peers in my community.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

To have my own practice as a physician or dentist. I hope to be able to take care of patients and view them as family and taking care of my family, as well.



# HBU

HOUSTON BAPTIST  
UNIVERSITY

**Major: Biochemistry**

# NHI YẾN LÊ

## Salutatorian

Tomball Memorial High School | Tomball ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Thành Công Lê**  
**Mrs. Hải Yến Trương Lê**

### ***Nhi's Accolades and Hobbies***

AP Scholar with Distinction, Grief Inc. Scholarship, TMHS NHS Scholarship, National Merit Finalist, Key Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National Honor Society, Orchestra, Science Olympiad, Spanish National Honor Society, Tennis

Reading, playing tetris, eating food, binge-watching Netflix.

### ***What three words describe you best?***

Indecisive, Driven, Adventurous

### ***What significant achievement you are most proud of?***

Getting my sprint time in 40L Tetris to under a minute.

### ***What are you looking forward to in college?***

Making friends and having fun :)

### ***What are your goals for the future?***

I want to be happy with what I do in life.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Business**

# NIKITA VILLEGAS

## Valedictorian

Klein Forest High School | Klein ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Victor Villegas**  
**Mrs. Trang Vũ**

### ***Nikita's Accolades and Hobbies***

Dell Scholars, George and Mary Hammond Foundation Scholarship, Houston Rodeo and Livestock Scholarship, Science National Honor Society President, Computer Science Programming Team, Decathlon, Varsity Orchestra, Volunteer as Lavang TA, etc.

Watching Korean dramas, as well as anime, reading books and memoirs, travelling to new places, hiking, and spending time with my family.

### ***What three words describe you best?***

Optimistic, Determined, Responsible

### ***What significant achievement you are most proud of?***

Being able to accomplish 12 years of schooling. While it was difficult, I definitely enjoyed many moments with family and friends. Best of all, I am proud of being able to make my mom smile and making her proud of me.

### ***What are you looking forward to in college?***

College is full of infinite opportunities, and I definitely can't wait to explore these possibilities and discover what life has to offer. Whether it be new friends, classes, or study habits, I simply cannot wait to see what college has in store for me!

### ***What are your goals for the future?***

To finish with a bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering and begin making new creations that will forever change the world of medicine. Whether it's helping the deaf hear or building tools that help doctors to better diagnose patients, I hope to be someone who will make her mark in the history of medicine.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Honors Biomedical Engineering**

**Patrick's Accolades and Hobbies**

Murchison's Scholarship, UT McCombs Scholarship, Texas Forensics Association State Champion, President of National Honor Society, Eagle Scout from Troop 642, Co-Founder of St. Thomas Speech and Debate Team, Co-Captain of Varsity Swim Team, etc.

Swimming, running, lifting weights, spending time with those closest to me, and making memories.

# PATRICK PHẠM

*Valedictorian*

St. Thomas High School | Private School

Son of

**Mr. Phillip Quốc Phạm  
Mrs. Tracy Thảo Nguyễn**

**What three words describe you best?**

Social, Charismatic, Ambitious

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Competing in the Duo Interpretation competition with my best friend, we crafted a story revolved around our grandfathers: two Vietnam War veterans fighting for justice. We found out that we were national champions (out of 400 competitors)! I am so proud that I could share a beautiful story.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

Continuing the interests that I have cultivated in high school meanwhile exploring new fields. I'm excited to transition from a small private high school to a much larger university with a plethora of opportunities.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To be a top ranking member of a Fortune 500 company. I desire to be a person who leads with integrity and grace, to be an example for my community.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Honors Business**

**Pearl's Accolades and Hobbies**

UT Award, Horatio Alger State Scholarship, National Honor Society, EMERGE Fellowship, STEM Club, Community Club, Student Council

Reading books, watching tv shows, trying new foods, spending time with family and friends.

# PEARL TRẦN

*Salutatorian*

Spring Early College Academy | Spring ISD

Daughter of

**Ms. Marlo Fore**

**What three words describe you best?**

Optimistic, Friendly, Open-minded

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

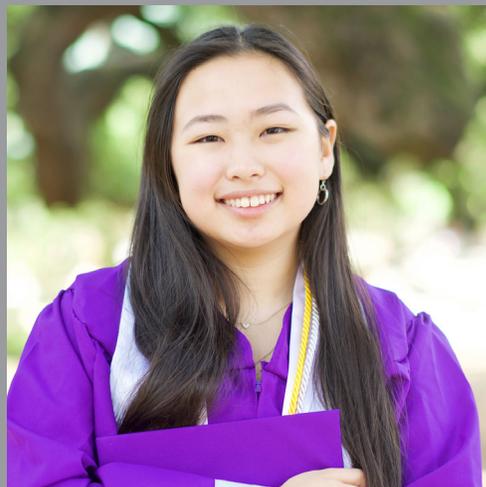
Graduating high school and going to college.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

Meeting new friends and learning more about my major.

**What are your goals for the future?**

I want to live my definition of a happy and successful life and spread love to my family and friends. I hope to give back to the ones to raised me and make a positive contribution to society.



# TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

**Major: Biochemistry**

# STEFAN CHRISTOPHER PHAM

## Salutatorian

George Ranch High School | Lamar Consolidated ISD



Son of  
**Mr. Gia Pham**  
**Mrs. Agnieszka Pham**

### **Stefan's Accolades and Hobbies**

UIL Math, Number Sense, and Calculator Apps, Swimming, Academic Decathlon, National AP Scholar, Mu Alpha Theta President, National Honor Society, Student Council, Asian Culture Club, Spanish Honor Society,

Watching movies, doing puzzles, hanging out with friends, traveling, and listening to music.

### **What three words describe you best?**

Inquisitive, Reliable, Intuitive

### **What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Scaling Haleakalā.

### **What are you looking forward to in college?**

Meeting new people in a new environment and taking in as many new experiences as I can.

### **What are your goals for the future?**

Occupation wise, I have no clue; I just hope wherever I do land, that it sticks and I end up loving it. I just want to live everyday with some sense of fulfillment and be able to provide for my family.



Major: Computer Science

# THỤC UYÊN HOÀNG VÕ

## Salutatorian

J. Frank Dobie High School | Pasadena ISD

### **Thuc's Accolades and Hobbies**

1st in Novice Original Oratory in Speech and Debate, Domestic Extemp in Speech and Debate, HOSA Veterinary Science, Golf Tournament, HOSA Nursing Assisting, AP Scholar with Distinction, QuestBridge Finalist, Dobie Hall of Honor Scholarship, etc.

Painting memes, movie night with friends and family, biking with nature, making short films.

Daughter of  
**Mr. Viên Võ**  
**Mrs. Mịch Nguyễn**

### **What three words describe you best?**

Persevering, Open-minded, Opportunistic

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**  
Going to college on a full ride scholarship as an immigrant.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**  
Making new friends of all shapes, sizes, and cultures and evolving as a healthcare professional.

**What are your goals for the future?**  
To be a future surgical physician associate and, hopefully, a New York Times bestselling author. I want to live happily and go on frequent vacations to travel the world.



SWARTHMORE

Major: Biology

# TYLER VIỆT ĐÌNH

Salutatorian

Pearland High School | Pearland ISD

**Tyler's Accolades and Hobbies**  
University of Houston Academic Excellence Scholarship, Cardinal Health Scholastic Award, Tansey Family Scholarship, National Honor Society, Academic Decathlon, Swim and Water Polo team

Gaming, Music, Reading, Hanging out with friends that make me smile!

Son of  
**Mr. Anthony Hiền Đình**  
**Mrs. Christina Trăm Đình**



**What three words describe you best?**

Competitive, Outgoing, Easygoing

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Breaking a school record in the 200 freestyle relay.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

Meeting new people, making friends, and furthering my education.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To become a radiologist oncologist. I want to be able to make enough money so that my family is able to relax in the future



**Major: Biochemical and Biophysical Sciences**

# VI YẾN PHẠM

Valedictorian

Pasadena Memorial High School | Pasadena ISD



Daughter of  
**Mr. Thông Phạm**  
**Mrs. Châu Trần**

**Vi's Accolades and Hobbies**

Interact 4-Way Test Scholarship, University of Houston Tier One Scholarship, Class Vice President, Interact, Student Council, and National Honor Society.

I love to write poetry, run, volunteer, watch movies and code. My family makes me smile.

**What three words describe you best?**

Hard-working, Determined, Driven

**What significant achievement you are most proud of?**

Receiving a full ride scholarship to the University of Houston.

**What are you looking forward to in college?**

Creating a close group of friends and challenging my academic abilities.

**What are your goals for the future?**

To get into dental school and become a dentist. I want to be happy and stable in life and to be able to travel the world.



**Major: Honors Biomedical Science on Pre-Dental Track**

# THIS YEAR'S VVDV SCHOLARSHIPS

## **Mr. Huy Phạm's "I am Vietnamese" Scholarship**



Mr. Huy Phạm was a recipient in 2000 and helped run the VVDV program for over 10 years. He has also been a member of VCSA since then and is a former Executive Board Member. He credits VVDV for some of his best friendships and VCSA for helping him connect to his culture. Huy is the editor of the "I am Vietnamese" anthology and currently works in Strategy and Analysis within the financial technical services industry. Thus, Mr. Huy Phạm has created the "I Am Vietnamese" scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to be awarded to one honoree from the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association 2021 Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon.

The Vietnamese living overseas are a special group of people. We are a people without a land. But, that doesn't mean we don't have a culture. Regardless of our varying grasp of the Vietnamese language and our cultural heritage, we are bound by our struggles, our values, and our parents' quiriness.

*"What part of your Vietnamese heritage are you most proud of? How has it shaped you?  
What does 'I Am Vietnamese' mean to you?"*

## **Dr. Ngọc Anh Nguyễn and Mr. Scott Sporn's Scholarship for Social Justice**

Dr. Ngọc Anh Nguyễn was a VVDV recipient in 2003 and has been a patron of VCSA and the VVDV program since. She and her husband, Mr. Scott Sporn, are dedicated to uplifting important causes and underserved communities, with particular focus on the Vietnamese community, environmentalism, social justice, and children's health. Dr. Ngọc Anh Nguyễn was a keynote speaker for VVDV in 2019, and is an emergency medicine physician at Houston Methodist Hospital. She is also a clinical instructor for Weill Cornell College and Texas A&M College of Medicine. Mr. Scott Sporn is an investment banker for the Royal Bank of Canada. They reside in Houston with their three year old daughter.



As a VVDV alumni, Dr. Nguyễn understands the impact of giving back to her community of mentors and motivators. That is why she and Mr. Scott Sporn are generously granting a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to one honoree who has been named a VVDV honoree and is currently an active student.

*"What are the greatest contributors to social, financial, racial, or gender inequities in our current society? What steps have you taken or plan to take in your personal and professional life to address these inequities? Do you see any possible solutions in our future to create a more just society for all?"*

*This year's VVDV special performance is*

# HẢI YẾN

Nghệ sĩ Hải Yến sinh ra trong một gia đình truyền thống về âm nhạc cổ truyền. Thân mẫu là nhà giáo Phạm Thúy Hoan, nổi tiếng với các sáng tác độc tấu cho đàn Tranh. Hải Yến bắt đầu học nhạc tại trường Quốc Gia Âm Nhạc ở Sài Gòn năm 1979. Sau 6 năm theo học đàn Tranh, Hải Yến chuyển sang học bộ môn Bộ Gõ Tổng Hợp, và tốt nghiệp thủ khoa năm 1989.

Từng tham gia các đoàn nghệ thuật đi biểu diễn ở nhiều quốc gia như Nam Hàn, Nhật, Trung Hoa, Hồng Kông, Thái Lan, Singapore, Pháp, Đức, Bỉ, Hòa Lan, v.v., Hải Yến có thể xử dụng nhiều nhạc cụ như Tranh, Bầu, Tam Thập Lục, Trung, Trống, và đã đoạt giải nhất độc tấu hai nhạc cụ khác nhau là giải nhất đàn Tam Thập Lục năm 1981-1982 và giải nhất đàn K'long Put tại Okinawa, Nhật Bản năm 1999.

Hai-Yen is the daughter of Professor Thuy-Hoan Pham, the executive director Tiếng Hát Quê Hương Ensemble. Hai-Yen entered the National Conservatory of Music in Saigon in 1979 and majored in Đàn Tranh (Vietnamese zither) which she studied for 6 years before changing her major to World's Percussions and graduated in 1989 with honors.

Since then, she has toured many countries such as South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, France, Germany, and Belgium. She can play many different instruments such as Tranh, Bau, T'rung, and Tam Thap Luc. Hai-Yen's most noted accomplishments include First Prize for Tam Thập Lục (Vietnamese thirty-six string dulcimer), 1981 and 1982, and Gold Medal for K'long Put at the Musical Festival in Okinawa, Japan, 1999.

# 25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE



Lương Hoàng Nam  
VVDV 1997



Huỳnh Sophie  
VVDV 1998



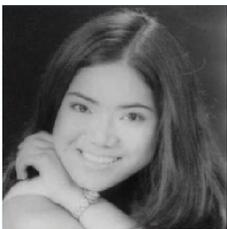
Hồ Ngọc Trâm  
VVDV 1999



Bùi Khánh Vân  
VVDV 2000



Lê Mộng Huy  
VVDV 2001



Vera Tran  
VVDV 2001



Nguyễn Thế Hoài  
VVDV 2002



Phạm Thùy Trang  
VVDV 2002



Harry Dao  
VVDV 2003



Phạm Tuấn Huy  
VVDV 2004



Nguyễn Ngọc Anh  
VVDV 2005



Hoàng Bách Hỷ  
VVDV 2006



Phan Xuyên  
VVDV 2006 & 2007



Hồ Diệu Hương  
VVDV 2007 & 2008



Đinh Vân Amy  
VVDV 2008



Jimmy Tran  
VVDV 2009



Reagan Nguyen  
VVDV 2009



Nguyễn Minh Châu  
VVDV 2010



Monica Nguyen  
VVDV 2010



Jenny Le  
VVDV 2011



Linh Tran Do  
VVDV 2011



Kristina Vu  
VVDV 2012



Jaclyn Nguyen  
VVDV 2012



Thuan Vu  
VVDV 2013



Tina Au  
VVDV 2013

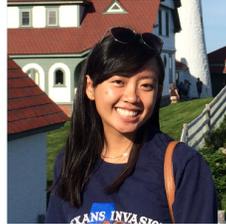
# VVDV CO-CHAIRS IN 25 YEARS



Peter Vu  
VVDV 2014



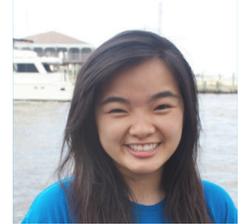
Alex Tran  
VVDV 2014



Bao Tran Ma  
VVDV 2015



Vy Tran  
VVDV 2015



Nhi Vu  
VVDV 2016



Konnie Le  
VVDV 2016



Anh Viet Ho  
VVDV 2016



Ann La  
VVDV 2017



Elissa Nguyen  
VVDV 2017



Xuan Tran  
VVDV 2018



Paul Vu  
VVDV 2018



Christy Cao  
VVDV 2019



Henry Nguyen  
VVDV 2019



Britney Trieu  
VVDV 2020



Vivian Nguyen  
VVDV 2020



Katelyn Nguyen  
VVDV 2021



Thuan Doan  
VVDV 2021

# VVDV 2021 CO-CHAIRS



To all Vẻ Vang Dân Việt honorees, families, volunteers, educators, previous co-chairs, and of course, the Vietnamese Culture & Science Association (VCSA) community, we would like to give a huge thank you for helping us put together a remarkable program this year as we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Amidst the on-going global pandemic, this beautiful ceremony would not have been possible without your immense support and diligence every step of the way.

We would also like to give special acknowledgement to the VCSA President Teresa Trinh, former Co-Chairwoman and VCSA Advisory Board Member Dr. Anhlan Nguyen, VP of Grant Acquisition Jenny Le, former Executive Board Member Ann La, VCSA VP Xuan Tran, and Co-President of Community Outreach Christine Tran. Their passion and commitment to the VCSA community is inspiring as they devote themselves to empowering the Vietnamese youth and strengthening our culture.

Co-chairing this huge celebration of the Vietnamese pride and culture has been a great honor for us. As we carried on this tradition, thank you for an unforgettable summer full of new, valuable, and challenging experiences. We are grateful and will forever cherish the friendships we have built within this uplifting community.

Sincerely,  
Katelyn Nguyen and Thuan Doan

# The **VCSA Executive Board and Board of Directors** extend our congratulations and well wishes to all VVDV honorees, parents, and families!



President **TERESA TRINH**



VP-Programs **BẢO LƯU**



VP-Fundraising **THANH LÊ**



VP-Membership **VINH NGÔ**



VP-Community Outreach  
**BRYAN NGUYỄN**



VP-Community Outreach  
**CHRISTINE TRẦN**



VP-Marketing  
**DAVID NGUYỄN**



VP-Youth Engagement  
**XUÂN TRẦN**



VP-Grant Acquisitions  
**JENNY LÊ**



VP-Community Health Programs  
**ALEXANDER LÊ**



Treasurer **MINH PHẠM**



Secretary **JOHN NGUYỄN**



**ANH LAN NGUYỄN**



**THIỆN CAO**



Board Chair  
**LƯƠNG HOÀNG NAM**



**TINA ÂU**



**MARK DUY NGUYỄN**



# VCSA COMMUNITY VACCINATION PROJECT

## Summary

Beginning May 2020, the **Vietnamese Culture and Science Association (VCSA)** launched efforts to secure COVID-19 testing kits and vaccinations for the Houston community, with a focus on elderly Vietnamese Americans facing language and technology barriers.



## Health Equity Approach

VCSA targeted socially vulnerable communities using the following three factors:

### Testing Distribution

2,000 tests

### Vaccine Registration

1,000 appointments

### Vaccine Distribution

3,200 vaccines

## Key Findings

*of approximately 1000 patients scheduled for vaccination appointments*



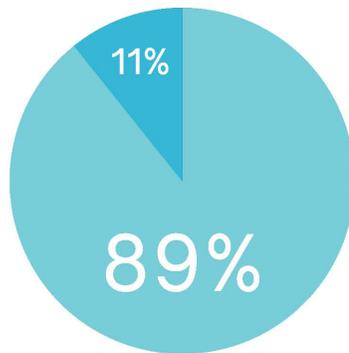
80% of patients were 50 years and older



25% of patients were 65 years and older



95% identified as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI)



89% of patients were from socially vulnerable zip codes\*

\*listed as socially vulnerable as indicated by Harris County Public Health

## Strategy

Lien Hoa Buddhist Temple, Jade Buddha Temple, & Vietnamese Martyrs Catholic Church

### Large-Scale Drive-Thru Sites

#### Healthcare Partners

Busy Bee Wellness Center & HOPE Clinic

#### Residential Distributions

Thai Xuan Village



Thank you to several key partners for their support:



# 2021 VVDV VOLUNTEERS

*A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers this year who organized and planned this year's VVDV through virtual meetings. Our Youth Excellence Recognition Luncheon would not have happened without their help!*



Alexander Lê  
An Bùì  
Andy Giang  
Anhlan Nguyễn  
Anthony Đố  
Bảo Lưu  
Britney Triều  
Bryan Nguyễn  
Christi Nguyễn  
Christine Trần  
David Nguyễn  
Elissa Nguyễn  
Elizabeth Lưu  
Huyền Lê  
Jenny Lê  
Julie Trịnh  
John Nguyễn

Kylie Bùì  
Madison Phan  
Minh Phạm  
Nam Lương  
Newton Huỳnh  
Nhi Trần  
Patrick Đặng  
Paul Phụng  
Teresa Trịnh  
Trish Nguyễn-Thạch  
Trương Nguyễn  
Vân Lâm  
Vina Trần  
Vinh Ngồ  
Vivian Nguyễn  
Vivian Trần  
Xuân Trần

# Acknowledgments

The Vietnamese Culture and Science Association would like to recognize the following corporations, businesses, and individuals for their sponsorship of our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Vietnamese American Youth Excellence Recognition Program

## Underwriters

Houston Arts Alliance  
Kim Son

Shell Oil Company

## Benefactors

Asian American Bar Foundation  
Texas Instruments (VNTI)

VieTV

## Sponsors

Huy Pham Scholarship  
Dr. Ngoc Anh Nguyen & Mr. Scott Sporn  
Dr. Robert Quang Le

Michael Dao, CPA  
Van Lang IPA

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Dr. Mai Tram Nguyen

Institute for Civic Education in  
Vietnam / Lyceum  
Khai Tri Academy  
Mr. & Mrs. Knut Eriksen  
Mr. & Mrs. Nam Luong  
Van Houston Academy

## Friends

Athena Phan  
Brenda Tran  
Christine Tran  
Danny Dzandzurovski  
Devin Nguyen  
Dieu Nguyen & TuongVu Nguyen  
Dr. Anhlam Nguyen  
Dr. Harry Dao Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Nam Hoang

Dr. Mai Tram Nguyen  
Dr. Thao Nguyen  
Hạo Vy Trinh  
Jenny Le  
Jessica Huynh  
Khánh Linh Bui  
Kim Yen Vu  
Kristina Quynh  
Lucy Duong

Mai Anh  
Nam Luong  
Nhat Thao Nguyen  
Nguyen Thi Bich Thuan  
Ngoc Tan Trinh  
Nory Angel  
Phong Pham  
Rebecca Hwang  
Son Ton

Suong Vu  
Susan Dinh  
Teresa Trinh  
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- ✓ Môi trường học tốt và an toàn
- ✓ Đội ngũ giáo viên chất lượng và tận tâm

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# NIÊN GIÁM

## TUẦN BÁO **RAO VẶT**

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**“CHỖ TỐT NHẤT  
TRONG NIÊN GIÁM  
ĐÃ GẦN HẾT, XIN  
GỌI CHÚNG TÔI  
NGAY BÂY GIỜ.”**

### MAIN OFFICE:

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**Robert D. Le, OD**



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## GIỜ MỞ CỬA

T.Hai - T. Sáu: 8:00am - 6:00pm

T. Bảy: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Chủ Nhật: CLOSED



ACURA



HONDA



INFINITI



MITSUBISHI  
MOTORS



TOYOTA



MAZDA



LEXUS



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