Korean American Scholarship Foundation

Midwest Regional Chapter

KASF-MWRC

2018

Scholarship Recipients

Korean American Dream Possible

www.kasf.org

kasfmidwest@gmail.com

MWRC | *REMARKS*

MWRC is a dedicated group of Korean American professionals collaborating to pay forward the advantages they have received as 1.5 and 2nd generation Korean Americans. Although busy with established careers, family, and daily life, they understand the importance of being a part of something bigger than themselves, and serve selflessly to honor those who have already sacrificed and encourage those in pursuit of their full potential and a better life.

In 2018, we continue our third year of operations for MWRC 2.0. MWRC covers 12 states: Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Michigan; Minnesota; Missouri; North Dakota; Nebraska; Ohio; South Dakota; and, Wisconsin. 133 scholarship applications were evaluated and 10 Recipients awarded a total of $17,000. Congratulations to our 2018 KASF-MWRC Scholarship Recipients featured in this program book!

In 2019, MWRC will focus on three strategic priorities/projects:
① Fundraise for scholarships, including Descendants of American Korean War Veterans;
② Rebuild MWRC and expand its Board;
③ Establish the MWRC Community Network.

We will continue to direct every dollar we raise to scholarships. In our past scholarship events, we have provided Travel Scholarships ($500) to out-of-town Recipients to attend so their scholarship can remain intact.

Highlights of our MWRC Community Network include:
① Support of all Applicants;
② Individual & group coaching/mentoring;
③ MWRC Recipient alumni activities;
④ Merit/Special Recognition Scholarships (up to $250) to Scholarship Applicants who were not selected as Recipients but proven commitment and participate in chapter activities/events;
⑤ Participation in Midwest community initiatives & events.

MWRC would like to thank Angela Kwan, Jinho Woo, Eugene Chang, Michael Kim, and Peter Lee for their three years of service as Board Members. Current Board Members are: Phil Kim; Patricia Kim Celmer; John Kwon; Jane Lee-Kwon; David Shin; and Advisor Dr. Yoon Tae Kim. We are pleased to welcome Danny Lee and Hoyoon Kim as new Board Members for 2019.

MWRC is proud to partner with students in the Midwest community as they aspire to be the best version of themselves and achieve their Korean American Dream. We welcome you as Applicants, Members and Donors to become a part of our MWRC Community Network.

Jane Lee–Kwon
MWRC President

KASF National | *REMARKS*

2018 represents another successful year for KASF as we awarded a total of $450,000 to 240 students. We continue to build on the vision established nearly 50 years ago and continue to mature as an organization. As KASF is volunteer-led, we are facing many challenges but those challenges are overcome by the passion of our tireless board members, volunteers, sponsors, and donors.

In recent years, our collective fundraising efforts are beginning to pay off. In 2017, we raised $200,000 and so far this year, we have raised $225,000 in new Chair Scholarships. In addition, we recently received a pledge of $500,000 gift from a major donor. This is the single largest gift we received in our history and we are hopeful that this will lead to other large donations to help increase the impact of our work. In addition to the financial help, this donor has also agreed to help raise our profile with corporate America, with other Korean American philanthropic communities and help our students through a mentoring program.

Although our success is often measured by how much we raise and how much we award in scholarships, the real measure for our success is how we are able to positively impact those we award. This year, I am happy to report that we are starting to see the evidence of our hard work pay off as some of our past recipients have donated scholarship funds and some have actively volunteered their talents through fundraising events.

Our scholarship banquet is a special occasion to celebrate all the hard work of our recipients and also the tireless work of our board members and volunteers. To all, on behalf of our national board, I would like to express our sincere "thank you" and "congratulations". I would also like to thank President Jane Lee-Kwon and all officers and board members for another successful year and I hope for your continued success.

Thank you again for your support and we look forward to seeing you again next year!

Leonard Kim
Chair, KASF National Board

KASF is a non-profit organization established to help meet the financial needs of Korean-American students seeking higher education. Founded in 1969 by a small group of concerned Korean American community leaders in Washington, D.C., KASF began as a local organization and subsequently became a national organization in 1989 to meet the ever-increasing demand of the growing Korean American community. Today, KASF has seven regional chapters in Washington D.C., Los Angeles, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, and Denver.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
DONATIONS

We were fortunate to receive two scholarship donations in 2018:

Chair Scholarship

Donated by Mr. Keith Kim, one of the original founders of KASF. MWRC greatly appreciates Mr. Kim's inspiring leadership, service and generosity. Mr. Kim served as the first President of WRC for six years and the third Chair of KASF NB from 1994-1995. For his continued dedication and commitment to KASF, Mr. Kim was awarded KASF NB Lifetime Service Award earlier this year.

The Hiro Joho High School Memorial Scholarship

Donated by the family of Hiro Joho to commemorate the 10th year passing of their beloved son & brother. This scholarship will fund the selection of two high school seniors for the next decade. MWRC is honored to celebrate the memory of Hiro with his family.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

Hiro Joho High School Memorial Scholarship:

MIN SEUNG KANG
Centennial High School

"Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude."

– Zig Ziglar

As a young student, I measured my value in the world through the number of what I considered successes and failures. I counted how many trophies I acquired in various sports, certificates for academic achievements, and more. As a child, I never settled for "second place," always striving to be perfect. Although I sought to become the leading student in any environment, I relied solely on my innate abilities. Every time I failed to reach my ambitions, no matter how trivial, I became frustrated; I was not only displeased with the results, but also with the fact that my best was insufficient. Routinely, I forgot about these failures and only looked towards my next goal, using my talents.

The same pattern continued for numerous years, with me not developing a new attitude. My routine of succeeding, failing, and ignoring was shattered in seventh grade. In seventh grade, I decided to take on a particularly ambitious endeavor: applying for a prestigious local school. One of the requirements of the application, along with the essay, was a standardized testing score. I set my sights on obtaining the highest score possible on this test. Weeks fraught with stress and anxiety fueled my studying. Eventually, I received the perfect score I had labored over and expected admission into the school. When my rejection letter arrived, I was devastated. This experience, however, brought me a blessing and a mindset I have lived by since. Before I forgot about this ordeal, I learned one lesson. One phrase from this life-changing experience altered me completely. In Korean, my mother told me, "Talent will only get you so far. Adapting will get you further." From there my life perspective evolved completely.

2018 MWRC Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

Hiro Joho High School Memorial Scholarship: **MIN SEUNG KANG**

Until this event, I measured life through achievements and focused on attaining more prestige. I came to realize that my life should have been measured by personal growth, not tangible trophies or certificates. Continuing to strive for my optimal future was important but striving by growing became necessary. In order to grow, perceiving failures as lessons and building blocks to attain my next goal was paramount. The attitude of measuring life through growth, not innate talents or achievements, has shaped me into the citizen I am today.

With my new mindset, I was able to learn more about my identity, especially in my last year of junior high. In the year following my application rejection, I started to delve deeper into my musical studies. In previous years, when I faced disappointments in my music career, I placed fault on my choice of instrument: the alto saxophone. Thoughts of quitting dominated my mind during these rough moments, but I was encouraged by those around me to adhere to my instrument. Eighth grade year, I was thankful for my peers. When I was denied a first place award at a local music competition, initially, I was frustrated; however, after this initial phase of disappointment, I began examining my mistakes. I discovered that I relied too heavily on my innate musical talent. I continued to study my mistakes to expand my knowledge in music. After my self studies, I accomplished a variety of other goals, such as winning scholarships, later in the year. During this time, I started to appreciate "failures" as lessons that galvanized growth. Each accomplishment that year only provided further evidence that my new attitude of attempting to grow through mistakes, not only through successes, was effective.

I am now a student defined by attitude. Until seventh grade, I had a notion that success was measured solely by achievements. With my new approach, I know that success has no meaning without growth. The idea of success has become less valuable than the concept of failures. What the vast majority of students will consider failures, I will consider valuable experiences. These experiences will allow me to mature faster than successes; thus this attitude has carried me to my current destination. I have applied my new attitude to various personal interests (e.g., swimming, academics, community activity) and, in each area, I have grown tremendously simply by reviewing my previous shortcomings. I have attained state level swimming status, challenged myself academically, participated in more social community outreach programs, and reached new altitudes. These accomplishments are valuable, but I consider the fact that I am growing priceless. Zig Ziglar has said, "Your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude." Once I relied on my aptitude; today, however, I am a student who strives to succeed with Zig Ziglar's maxim in mind—using attitude.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

Hiro Joho High School Memorial Scholarship:

MICHELLE SUNG
Mounds View High School

"If you think you're going to crash, accelerate faster."

– Suga

South Korea has been notorious for their three "Ks," Kpop, Kdrama, and Kimchi. As much as these big three have influenced my life even here in America, Kpop has most likely had the most impact on my mentality. From one of the the most famous and rising international stars, BTS has given Kpop quite the spotlight in the Western world. Before moving onto their effects on me, background must be given to understand the bigger picture.

Contrary to the beliefs of many, BTS has never had it easy and started out in a small company rather than the "Big Three" (JYP, SM, YG). And unlike the majority of other idols, BTS members create their own music, including the lyrics. In their 2015 album, one of their members, Suga, created his solo piece called "Nevermind." Initially listening to the song I just nodded my head to the beat and paid little attention to the lyrics. But after closer attention and searching up the English translation to certain words that you didn't know, a reiterating phrase caught my attention. "If you think you're going to crash, accelerate faster." The quote alone doesn't quite make sense, so to put it in context, Suga was referring to his passion for music. Growing up in Daegu, Suga earned a mere ten cents per song and often got scammed, but even through his devastating hardships that pulled him away from his love for music, he decided songwriting was his passion and followed it till the very end.

Suga is not the poster child that many Asian parents want. Asians, not only Koreans, tend to push their children to whatever job will be the most stable in life. Often it's lawyers, doctors, professors, and such; a career that will earn a living. A passion gap is inevitable with these expectations and

2018 MWRC Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

Hiro Joho High School Memorial Scholarship: **MICHELLE SUNG**

I started to see it in peers and also myself, particularly, when I tried living up to the expectations of becoming a doctor. Although I had experience in the biology field and continued to reach for more, I never had that spark, that click, that excitement. Unlike biology, I felt this with earth science. Starting from eighth grade, I discovered fossils through Science Olympiad. Reading about prehistoric life was fascinating and I felt like I was doing it for no one but myself. After viewing life from a molecular viewpoint, I found this new facet where different systems in a macroscopic level interacted through a subject called Earth Science. This passion gap was nonexistent whenever I read, studied, and discovered more about this topic. But I never considered anything more than a hobby. The stigma surrounding the job opportunities did nothing but discourage me and force me to look the other way. But it took me more than enough time to realize that I couldn't do something I didn't purely enjoy for the rest of my life.

In the grand scheme, I am only a high schooler and choosing my path now may not have an astounding impact much later in my life. Listening to this song over and over again, the same lines of the chorus ringing in my skull, I came across a final epiphany. Earth science is where I can find my drive, motivation, ambition; my passion. Even if I change majors in college to do something else I love, this new mindset that was given to me through the influence of this song, this quote, will leave its mark. Being different and not considered part of the group norm is incredibly difficult for anyone. The mental cage of making yourself fit in with others is imprinted into your brain since birth. But through this, I found my way of escaping these groups norms, finding my path, and becoming someone that can truly say not only that they found their passions, but that they're happy with their choice.

As Suga said, "If you think you're going to crash, accelerate faster," even if I'm unsure of my future and still living as an adolescent, I need to go for the now, the present. As cliche as it sounds, a career path is the path I will be walking down for the rest of my life. It's pointless to walk down a long journey with little love and ambition. With this new realization, I started approaching my life differently. Instead of centering my life around the perfect society's expectations, I found my true identity, someone who I can say has embraced in not only what they do, but who they are.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

SUNJU CHO
Elmhurst College

"Genius is 1% talent and 99% hard work."

– Albert Einstein

Ask people to list top qualities I have, and they will say I am one of the hardest-working people they have met. However, people's recognition for my hard work came from years and years of dedication and effort. One reason why I put in my 100% effort is because I immigrated to America when I was 10 years old.

Back then, I only knew few words in English, so I had to learn grammar, memorize vocabulary, ask a lot of questions to catch up to everybody who was the same age as me. It felt like I was trying so hard just to climb to the starting line of a long race that everybody else was already ready for. After about two years of staying in English as a Second Language (ESL) course, I was able to speak English much better. I mustered up a courage to get out of my comfort zone and made conversations with new people everyday. Many of them were friendly, and they tried to help me learn English much faster. It finally felt like I was among where everyone else was: in front of the starting line to pursue a higher education.

When a new quarter began, my ESL teacher offered me to take new electives because I learned all subjects from ESL, and they thought I did not need more help. Like most of my friends, I decided to take Spanish. The only problem was people in my spanish class had already learned Spanish the previous year, while I was in ESL. Despite not taking one year of Spanish, I decided to try my best. However, learning a new language in English was a huge challenge for me. When the first quarter ended, I had a grade D in the class. Just when I thought I finally caught up, I was falling behind

because there was another wall I had to climb over.

When I was feeling gloomy, I got called down to my counselor's office to discuss about my grade. As I entered the room, I also saw my Spanish teacher and ESL teacher sitting down next to my counselor. My counselor cautiously advised me to take easier electives. My Spanish teacher agreed and told me to change my class before my grade gets worse. My ESL teacher was suggesting that I can come back to ESL if I wanted. I knew if I took an easier elective or went back to ESL, then I could bump my bad grade to an A. I also knew that my school work would become easier. However, I replied to them firmly, "No, I am not giving up." They were reluctant, but they let me stay in the class. After that day, I tried so hard to learn Spanish and bring up my grade. I would preview the lessons that my teacher would cover in few days. When my teacher gave extra worksheets to review verb tenses and vocabulary, I would do every single page. Then, I would go to my teacher one hour before the school started to check my answers. I would go early or stay late after class to ask questions from lessons. After one year of continuously giving all my effort, I brought my overall grade to A, and I was one of few people to get all A's in every five (vocabulary, listening, writing, speaking, reading) category of Spanish finals test.

Fast forward couple years, I was so glad that I decided not to quit because I took all the way up to AP Spanish in high school. My counselor, Spanish teacher, ESL teacher from Junior High thought the wall would be too high for me to climb, but I proved them wrong. After receiving an A in the intermediate Spanish class, I felt like I won a race that I did not even qualify for in the beginning.

Now, I use Spanish often when I volunteer at a hospital. When Hispanics come in and cannot speak English, I try to translate for them and ask what they need because I know how difficult the language barrier is to overcome. I have been there, and I try to become the person I needed the most back then. When those people thank me for my faithful dedication to help and compliment my proficient Spanish skill, instead of replying with a simple thanks, I simply grin and say, "I try." Albert Einstein's quote definitely describes me, but I would say, "Not giving up is 1% courage and 99% hard work" describes me the best.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

YE-BHIT HONG

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Fireflies

My parents never set limits for me. For instance, when I was three, there was no such thing as "bed time"; instead, in the middle of summer, my mom and I would go outside at night and catch fireflies. I whined when my mom wouldn't let me keep the fireflies, but she always asked, "What does your name mean?" "The Light of Jesus," I would reluctantly respond, knowing what always came next. She held me tight and whispered, "Just like you, these fireflies are the light to the world, and you both should fly free and share the light." I was too young to understand what she meant but nodded anyway.

When I was four playing in downtown Chicago parks I didn't understand why my friends disappeared one at a time. Our different looks and language were insignificant when we were playing together. Only years later, when my parents began curtailing my times outdoor, did I learn that many were removed from broken homes by Child Protective Services.

At age five, bored out of my mind, I cacophonously smashed keys on the piano while screaming at the top of my lungs, "I WANT TO LEARN PIANO!" My parents refused at first, but I didn't give up." I decided I would teach myself. After listening to the same piano records repeatedly, my young ears picked up the tune. Impressed by my ambition, my mom brought me to the Music Institute of Chicago. Music became my life, providing an outlet for my energy through long Chicago winters. Because my parents were both youth pastors, I grew looking up to the youth group, admiring how they served the community and played in the church orchestra. There was nothing more I wanted to do than learn the violin. After pestering my parents enough, they caved in and bought me a violin. The church

orchestra warmly welcomed me in, and I quickly picked up the instrument. Orchestra—through-team building exercises—brought a new kind of responsibility and structure into my life. There was nothing I anticipated more than Sunday Services.

But this sense of structure waned when my family moved to Fayetteville. Our new church contrasted from my old church. Since my parents were starting a new church, also known as church planting, there were only 5 families attending. Instead of a large church orchestra, I was now playing with two elderly women. My enthusiasm for music dulled, and over several years, playing became a chore.

That was until I met Shamika, one of the first-grade students that I taught at Sunday school. Immediately, she reminded me of my childhood friends from the park. Her mother had checked into rehab for substance abuse; and her grandmother, who only spoke Korean, received temporary guardianship over her. At first, Shamika was frustrated that she could not express her feelings to her grandmother due to the language barrier. Shamika's grandmother seemed to be slowly losing hope as she received letter after letter from school describing the girl's uncontrollable tantrums. But when Shamika entered my classroom, she was eager to learn: she had seen me playing violin at church and couldn't wait to pick it up herself. Week by week, her behavior improved as, through our shared love of music, she found an outlet for her pent-up emotions and creativity.

Shamika reawakened my passion for music. Not only that, our lessons together showed me how much I could change others' lives by being there and encouraging them to be their best selves, which inspired me to continue my work in service. Working with Shamika not only made a difference for herself but for her grandmother as well.

My parents soon entrusted me to assemble a church chamber orchestra. I set out on a mission to recruit anyone who could play an instrument. With the right amount of cajoling, I gathered a motley crew of musicians ranging in age and skill from a professional double bassist to a middle school band flautist. As the group grew, we played at the annual Martin Luther King ceremony, military award ceremonies, and nursing homes. One instance, at a nursing home, a woman with severe Alzheimer's started to play the piano accompaniment with us. The staff was shocked, but I was touched. It was moments such as these that showed me how much happiness I could bring into someone's life by sharing my talent for music.

Step by step I can live up to my name and spread my light to the world. I now understand what my mother meant by being the light to the world. I saw how once one person spread their light, it helped other people spread their light too, making humans ultimately more amazing than fireflies.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

SUBEOM KWAK

The Ohio State University

As Cooper said in Interstellar,
"We will find a way,
We always have."

"Will there be a war?" I was asked this question many times during my 28 months of active service as an army officer. Then, on November 23, 2010, North Korea fired dozens of rockets at the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong. The following devastation was heartbreaking, and many lives and property were destroyed. There was a renewed tension between the North and South Korea, just like it was during the Korean War.

The reality of this war and the consequences might seem quite unrealistic to many foreigners, but I, as a military officer in the artillery forces, had to stay on the front lines for two months, ready and waiting to fire rockets whenever an order was issued. It was too cold to stay outside for long, and I had no idea how anybody could have borne this penetrating cold 60 years previously, during the Korean War.

While at my post on a mountain, I was ordered to conduct studies on ways to shorten the artillery fire mission procedure in case of emergencies. I administered pre-tests and post-tests to regular soldiers, and my success earned me an official commendation from the army. However, before long, I began to find out that a simplified situation, designed by me, was isolated from real life. Agar (2013) points out the drawbacks of isolated research design, "Our lives are seldom like the experimental frameworks that the scientists shoehorn us into" (p. 4).

The harsh winter was a time to share stories to help my fellow soldiers understand one other. Regardless of how much they had been trained, the soldiers suffered from lack of sleep, fear, and mounting exhaustion. I could see complexity, chaos, and tacit codes within regular soldiers, as I had an insider's perspective (Blommaert & Jie, 2010). In a highly volatile situation, the most important

things were not the rate of artillery fire or physical training, but composure and calm judgment. These are two characteristics which I've endeavored to employ in my professional life since then. I did not stay on a mountain with regular soldiers planning to write my field notes about the experience. Yet, the courses at Ohio State University reminded me of the importance of grasping the research site and the participants with an insider's view for my future studies.

After finishing my military service as an army officer, I chose to study abroad to increase my expertise in education. I still vividly remember the day I arrived in England for my Master's degree program. The haunting scenery seen from the car window on the way to Northern England was beautiful and otherworldly. My academic advisor, Emma Marsden, not only taught content knowledge, but also shared something that changed my life: stories of her academic journey, the students she taught, and the pleasures of her years of research. Thanks to the "Supervision" tutorial system of British universities, I got guidance from Emma Marsden on a weekly basis. Since then, I have desired to become a professor and teach at a research-intensive institution.

I am the first person in my family who has pursued a degree in a foreign country some of my relatives had difficulty understanding my plan to study for a Master's degree, since they thought my Bachelor's degree would be enough to get a good job. It seemed to me that my airplane ticket for England already made a big difference and that they could not understand me anymore.

As time passed, the more conversations I had with my advisor, the more I became interested in life as a scholar. So many people complained about the cold and damp weather of England, but some of my best days were spent reading books and journal articles during the coldest winter months. One day, while looking at the snow through the window, I realized that these reading, writing, and teachings were significant enough to spend my whole life doing them.

Since coming to Ohio State, my advisor, George Newell, has provided me with further motivation and has helped me to refine my research interests in writing, reading, and instruction. I joined the Argumentative Writing project and have supervised pre-service teachers in M.Ed. English Education Programs. Since 2015, I presented six papers at national conferences: the American Educational Research Association (AERA); the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE); and the Literacy Research Association (LRA). Furthermore, I have two publication experiences as a sole author in a flagship journal in the field of education; and one chapter in a book as a co-author in English Language Arts Research and Teaching, which is published by Routledge.

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2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

JEAN KIM
Indiana University – Bloomington

We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated.

– Maya Angelou

Even though they are merely words on a piece of paper, this quote has had a significant impact on my personal growth and it shapes how I live my life day to day. The author of the quote is an individual who has continued to influence and inspire me, the unparalleled Maya Angelou. Her unconditional love of learning and unwavering hope in the midst of poverty and discrimination resonates with my own story.

Like Maya Angelou, I had a difficult childhood. Our newly immigrant family struggled financially while I experienced racial prejudice in the suburbs of Utah. I felt that life was unfair as I even suffered through abuse by people who were the closest to me. Despite the challenges that I faced, I had hope I would be able to rise above my situation and become someone who would speak as well as act for the underprivileged. I dreamed about dedicating my life to uplift those who needed it most. To do so, I knew I had to work tirelessly and before too long my efforts paid off. I received a full ride scholarship to attend the University of Utah where, for the first time, my dreams could turn into a reality for myself and my family.

At the university, while my family and I still grappled with financial issues, I realized just how privileged and lucky I was to be able to go to college. It made me want to ensure that other young adults have the same opportunity to get an education if they wish to do so.

Now more than ever, I believe it is crucial that younger generations have access to higher education.

2018 MWRC Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

College & Graduate Scholarship: **JEAN KIM**

Without a college degree, individuals cannot thrive in today's economy. Without scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate degrees, I would not have been able to learn more about my Korean identity, meet lifelong mentors, acquire valuable skill sets, and grow as an engaged citizen in the community. The university changed my life in a unexpectedly profound way. I have always had a passion for uplifting others and when combined with my love of higher education, it made sense that a career in development work at universities would be a good fit. I firmly believe all students should have access to education, regardless of their financial situation. This scholarship would help me to ensure that happens by funding my last year of graduate coursework that will enable me to be a competitive fund developer and grant writer.

Through my goal of becoming a development director at a university, I will help students, especially Asian American students, achieve their dreams through a college education. I want to set up a separate fund for Asian Americans because there is often a gap in scholarships for the community because institutions assume that this entire racial group is a financially privileged group, which is not always the case. Even though I cannot pay this scholarship back now, I know I can pay it forward in the future.

While I do not wish adversity upon anyone, I believe that the challenges I have faced have made me more resilient in all aspects of my life. I refuse to be defeated by the difficulties that come with being a low income, first generation college graduate, woman of color. I believe that people should be rewarded for their hard work, especially in the area of education. Underserved students who come from a low income background and have worked hard should be able to go to college if they wish to better themselves and their communities; I want to make that happen.

As an immigrant community, we encounter many hardships, but we must be resilient and strong together because no one else will advocate for us besides ourselves. We must not be defeated. I thank the Korean American Scholarship Foundation for their consideration and giving opportunities to grow future Korean American leaders like me.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

DANIEL LEE

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

Using no way as way; having no limitation as limitation.

– Bruce Lee

Though I am not perfectly using no ways as the way nor having no limitation as the limitation, this philosophy has grown in my heart through several experiences. Beginning just as a simple fascination, the importance of this phrase in my life has grown over time, which could be divided into three major stages – young dreamer, world facer, and opportunity seeker stages. The changes I experienced throughout these stages are all relevant to this quotation by Bruce Lee, and this is why it describes me so well.

The first stage was the "young dreamer" stage. Until when I was in high school, I was a young dreamer who wanted to be an awesome person. I read hundreds of biographies, and this gave me a dream to be a person that could make a good influence in the history. I was fascinated by the story of overcoming challenges, inventing new things, and going beyond a limit. This fascination led me to a desire to be a person that can be very influential and famous. For example, few of my goals were winning a Nobel Prize, being invited to the TED talk, and being listed as one of "the greatest people in 21st century." I read and heard that dreaming big is one of the most important qualities of successful people, so I merely dreamed big. I firmly believed that I will become a person "using no way as way and having no limitation as limitation," by dreaming big. Though I did not have much actual experience during this young dreamer stage, my thoughts and dreams were highly influenced by the Bruce Lee's quotation. I was eager to live such life, and this became my strongest motivation. The second stage, the "world facer" stage, came when I was leaving my hometown for college. Because I lived in a small Korean community in China for more than 10 years, I have not faced the

2018 MWRC Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

College & Graduate Scholarship: **DANIEL LEE**

"world" directly until my high school graduation. I was always considered a smart, faithful, high-achieving student in this small community, so I almost deluded myself that I am similar to people in the biographies. However, as I began to face the world in earnest, I began to reach my limit. In the new land where I had to do new studies with new people, there were too many "no ways," and I was not able to find a way to use those as my ways. I was overwhelmed by the presence of highly-talented students, high standards by professors, and severe competitions. This world facer stage of my life taught me what the underlying meaning of Bruce Lee's statement was. I began to realize why it is hard to be like famous people I admired. Overcoming limits was harder than what I thought.

If I stopped in the world facer stage, I could have given up to be a person that Bruce Lee mentioned. Thankfully, the next "opportunity seeker" stage quickly came into my life. Though I was seriously discouraged by the fact that I am not as outstanding as I thought, feeling my limitation, I began to recognize that this is necessary to live a life like Bruce Lee's quote. In order to use no way as way, I needed to have the "no way," and in order to use no limitation as limitation, I needed to have the "limitation." I have been focusing only on the result rather than the process. What I had to do was going through the limit by catching possible opportunities one by one. Rather than just looking at others, I began looking for chances to develop myself. I tried to increase my capacity by applying for jobs, communicating with professors, and preparing for competitive programs. The result of these efforts was obtaining lab assistant and peer tutoring jobs, admission to the undergraduate research program, and employment as a Taekwondo teacher. By seeking opportunities and catching them, I was able to be a person beyond my limits. I was able to have a taste of life having no limitation as limitation.

"Using no way as way; having no limitation as limitation." There are a lot more experiences I should do before I perfectly fit into the picture of this quotation. However, through my three stages of personal growth, I learned to admire, understand, experience the life as described in this quote. I am in process of learning to use no way as my way and to have no limitation as my limitation, and one day I will be able to describe myself with this quotation.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

GENE LEE

University of Wisconsin – Madison

"You could rattle the stars ...
You could do anything, if only you dared."
– Sarah J. Maas

Over the years, I have found that I consistently undergo the most growth when I push past my doubts and dive headfirst into new experiences. Though my reality is quite different from the magical assassin-princess Celaena, these words have resonated with me since I read Throne of Glass in middle school and have been directly applicable to all aspects of my life, including hobbies, extracurriculars, and academics.

I learned how to sew in fourth grade, and as I grew older, I continually improved my abilities by exploring increasingly challenging projects. However, I lacked the confidence to sew clothing. Junior year, I confronted these worries head-on, daring to sew my own prom dress. It was an experience full of blunders and miscalculations, but ultimately exhilarating and immensely rewarding. Since then, I have continued to self-learn the art of pattern making, drafting and sewing clothing pieces that range from a simple shift dress to an intricate pair of pleated shorts. Though sewing may seem a mere hobby to others, it showed me that I can achieve my dreams in spite of frustrating mistakes and setbacks. It taught me how risks can open up a whole new world of possibilities, and it taught me to relentlessly pursue the occupations that make my soul smile.

Beyond my hobbies, my activities have also shown me much about myself. After discovering my passion for service as a freshman, I applied for one of the highly-coveted spots on the Key Club Executive Board. During my interview, I clamped my hands down to keep them from shaking and my voice trembled with nerves, but I dared to speak about my ideas and my interest in taking a

leadership role. I was chosen as a board member, and for the next three years, I continued to seek new, terrifying experiences that enabled me to grow as a leader. As a sophomore, I dared to run for the District Board that oversees clubs in Wisconsin and Upper-Michigan. During my time on the District Board, I won numerous awards for my service and dedication to my positions. Meanwhile, as a member of my school club's board, I took on increasing responsibilities and was ultimately elected as president. I led my school club of 300+ members in one of the most successful years ever, serving over 9,000 hours and raising $12,000 for charities. When I first joined Key Club, I never imagined the leader I could become. Because I took the leap to become more involved, Key Club has been at the core of my leadership and character development, all the while igniting my desire to become a driving force of good for the rest of my life.

Finally, my academics have taught me a great deal about persevering. Last summer, as I began applying to colleges, my first choice was Stanford University, a place that I had idealized and dreamt about attending for many years. I was ready to take another risk and apply early to Stanford. I had achieved what I once thought were far-fetched ideas: the ability to sew my own clothes, hundreds of service hours, leadership positions in several activities, 36s on all four sections of the ACT; why not Stanford? I dared to believe that I had a chance of attending the notoriously selective school. When the decision email arrived, I opened it, only to find: "We regret to inform you…" I was utterly devastated.

I had always believed that I could accomplish anything if I worked hard enough, and I struggled to reconcile this idea with the ugly reality of my present. I had dedicated countless hours and care to academics and activities throughout high school, yet I did not gain admission to the school of my dreams. I felt lost; I was no longer sure about myself or my goals.

In the following weeks, as I took the time to reflect and cope with the hurt, I began to find clarity in the muddle of negative thoughts. Though I refused to give up my belief that I am in control of my actions and fate, I learned to accept that life is unpredictable and sometimes out of my control. I saw two options: to move on and continue striving for my goals or to stay stuck with bitter frustrations. I realized that one broken dream did not entail a broken future; regardless of what life threw my way, I could accomplish anything I set my mind to. So I dared to look past my sadness to the brilliant possibility of life. I dared to pick myself up, and I dared to dream of rattling the stars again.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

HAN NA LEE
Cleveland State University

"The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times."
– Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist

My life is greatly affected by my time in China where I grew up as a child of Christian missionaries, and was thus constantly surrounded by people who were in need of psychological care with no qualified professionals available to help them. I followed my parents' journey as missionaries in China for 14 years and counting. Due to the one-child policy, there are approximately 600,000 orphans in China and many are thrown into the life of extreme poverty, hunger, abuse and neglect. Unfortunately, the numbers are only growing while the much-needed attention and support continue to lack greatly. My parents focused on underprivileged groups of Muslim orphans in the border of Shanxi, China and I grew up watching my parents help these orphans. Unlike many others who carry stigma against these children as those who are unwanted and worthless, my parents showed care and ascribed value to the Muslim orphan community as well as each individual. Part of their mission was highlighting the importance of education received and resources provided for the orphans so that they may gain access to educational services. Even though the society might not expect the orphans to succeed in their academic performance, interpersonal relationships, and social relationships, my parents continued to believe in them.

Through this unique and valuable experience of mine, I've learned one of the most important lessons in life, a lesson that I've understood and embraced since a very young age; the value of not giving up. I'm resilient, persistent and determined to not define my life by moments of failure, but use it as a stepping stones to become a better version of myself. This quotation applies not just to me

personally but to others as a means of providing hope and opportunities. I believe everyone has the potential to use a moment of hardship to turn it into a moment of opportunity, and I strive to help others see this. This value of mine has never been forgotten as I continued to pursue higher education through graduate studies in Clinical Psychology.

My passion to share this value is evident in my research area. During my junior year, I presented my research findings, "Relationship between Stigma, Social, Support, and Self-Esteem among Orphans in China" at multiple conferences and received three different awards from national conferences. I continued my passion for research my senior year and began my second research project called "Cross-cultural Perspectives on Depression, Anxiety, and Stress among American and Chinese Students". This research culminated in two regional and national conventions. I furthered my research into self-compassion, which entails accepting oneself with kindness rather than with self-criticism. I presented numerous posters on self-compassion at multiple conferences. Not only were these presentations a way to further my academic career, but they were also a means for me to highlight to my colleagues the importance of the 'getting up' part of life while equally acknowledging the realness of 'falling down'.

Human interaction was a vital aspect of my research and the value I put on it has dictated the areas of my more hands-on experience as well. I worked as an interpersonal skills trainer, devoting a total of 563 hours to help students to improve their assertion and communication abilities. Examples of skills that were taught include: refusing requests, disarming anger, responding to defensiveness, expressing anger, responding to abuse, and making honest requests. My experience as a trainer proved especially useful at my work with children at the orphanage in China, who were perceptive to the interpersonal skills presentations I delivered. I also prepared separate trainings for the staff and volunteers, as they were the primary source of social support for the children. As a result, the orphanage benefitted greatly from the formal instruction of these interpersonal skills. It's important to handing people tangible and real means of 'getting up'.

I've always been passionate about the pure intellectual dimensions of research and expect to remain so for the rest of my career. I also believe that the work of scientists and researchers is enhanced when they commit to the goal of effecting positive change in human lives. The greatest part of the quote is the triumph of 'getting up' over 'falling down' while acknowledging at the same time that there will be failure. Every failure is an opportunity to move forward. Life is built on our successes and failures. It is indeed possible for success to triumph over failure and that is done by resilience. In that sense, I'm convinced that in pursuing my research at the highest level, I'm also deepening the level of service I render to my community.

2018 MWRC Scholarship
RECIPIENTS

College & Graduate Scholarship:

EUNHAE PARK

University of Wisconsin
School of Medicine and Public Health

"You may encounter many defeats,
but you must not be defeated. In fact,
it may be necessary to encounter the defeats,
so you can know who you are,
what you can rise from,
how you can still come out of it."

– Maya Angelou

I was seven years old when my family immigrated from Seoul to Minnesota. We came on my father's student visa with little in savings and a hope that this country would provide better medical care for my handicapped sister. We saved most of what we had for her medical bills, and this frugal lifestyle taught me to be grateful for what I had. Although learning a new language and adjusting to a different culture was challenging, I had a happy childhood, and always held onto the hope that my family would one day achieve the "American dream."

After my father finished his degree, our life trajectory was slowly on an upward trend: he had found a job in Fargo, North Dakota and I was adapting well to my new life here. However, in my 7th grade year, this trajectory came to an end when my father became unemployed. By my 9th grade year, our home was foreclosed and we were forced to stay at the homeless shelter.

These turn of events devastated me during a formative period of my life. As I entered middle school, I had begun to hope that we were closer to achieving stability. Our family's finances and lives seemed more secure, but just as our dreams seemed to be more within reach, our circumstances rapidly pulled us away. We henceforth became undocumented, homeless, and uninsured, and I remember feeling that we had fallen to a point of no return.

2018 MWRC Scholarship **RECIPIENTS**

College & Graduate Scholarship: **EUNHAE PARK**

I felt we were staring at a dead end, with no way out. Returning to Korea meant my handicapped sister could no longer access the medical services she needed, yet staying here meant we had no way to sustain ourselves. I felt hopeless, frustrated, and angry at life as I was ladled food by classmates that volunteered at the shelter, when my friends started treating me differently after they found out where we stayed, and when my handicapped sister's social worker threatened to report us.

These challenges molded me into who I am today. These defeats taught me to ask myself, "What can I do to make my family's life brighter?" I trained myself to become independent and hopeful again, and began using all of my energy and frustration to excel at school and the violin. I realized that the world wasn't going to change for us; instead, I would have to be purposeful and find my own ways of working through these obstacles and grow from them. I pursued my goals with renewed dedication: my dream was to get a job and pull my family out of our situation, back from our point of no return.

Music is where I saw my resilience first pay off. Since it was difficult to find space to practice in the homeless shelter, I went to school early everyday to use the practice room and hone my technique. I told myself that if I couldn't afford a violin, I would have to win one through competitions, and that if I couldn't afford summer camps, I would have to work twice as hard and earn the scholarships to attend. Because of this dedication, I was able to become concertmaster of the Minnesota All-State Orchestra, attend the competitive Interlochen Summer Arts Camp on a full-tuition merit-based grant, and win the concerto competition with the Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra. I especially value these accomplishments because they showed me that with passion and hard work, I could accomplish things I had thought nearly impossible. The lessons I've learned from seeking excellence and overcoming obstacles, despite my circumstances, have shaped the way I approach the challenges I face in other parts of my life.

My aspirations to become a physician also developed in high school as I learned about the barriers that other shelter residents experienced in accessing quality healthcare and reflected on my own family's medical experience. As a result, after high school, I continued to pursue my dream at Princeton, as a pre-medical student and graduated in 2015 with a degree in Molecular Biology. This coming fall, I will begin my second year of medical school at University of Wisconsin-Madison. During school, I will be unable to provide an income for my family as I did after my college graduation. Consequently, the KASF scholarship would allow me to continue my studies and thus achieve my aspirations of making an impact on underserved patients and bringing financial stability to my family's life.

KASF-MWRC Chair Scholarship

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2003	Dr. Wook & Soon Ja Kim Chair Scholarship	Dr. & Mrs. Wook Kim	김욱
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1993	Kwang Sun Choi Chair Scholarship	Mr. Kwang Sun Choi	최광선
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