



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:**

**Michael Lemus**

**916 206-1285**

[Michael.lemus@csac.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.lemus@csac.ca.gov)

### **2021 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award Winner Announced**

“This year, we selected Mr. Yia Le for his empathy, innovation, and never-ending support towards helping California students reach their goals.”

**SACRAMENTO, Calif., October 28th, 2021** -- A high school counselor from the Central Valley, Mr. Yia Le, has been selected as the winner of the 2020-21 Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award for outstanding achievements in high school counseling. Mr. Yia Le is a high school counselor serving his 6<sup>th</sup> year at McLane High School in Fresno, California.

Yia is a first-generation college graduate and a two-time alumnus from Fresno State, having graduated with his undergraduate degree in Psychology and graduate degree with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential in Student Affairs and College Counseling. Yia began his career as a school counselor working with special need students. He also worked as a Fresno State Ambassador and an Upward Bound Representative, servicing students in Fresno County.

Yia was nominated by his colleague, My Chang. In her nomination, My stated “Yia is a person who knows and understands that financial aid is the most important factor whether a student attends college or not. He himself was a first-generation college student from a low socio-economic background. Ever since he started his career as a school counselor at McLane High, I have had the privilege to witness his strength and drive in this area.”

“I love and enjoy serving our students here at McLane. Some things that I have learned from working with our students is that one must be flexible, patient, and

always be positive ,especially with our student population” said Yia. I am extremely blessed and honored to be selected for this award, the Arthur S. Marmaduke Award. Words cannot express how thankful and happy I am.”

"Every year we receive many nominations for the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor award, highlighting the tremendous work of counselors who each day help students prepare for college. This year we selected Mr. Yia Le for his empathy, innovation, and never-ending support towards helping California students reach their goals” said Marlene Garcia, Executive Director of the California Student Aid Commission. “Once we reviewed the nomination materials for Mr. Yia Le, it was clear that he was the right person for this award and is making a real difference at McLane High School”.

The presentation of Mr. Le’s award, included a California Legislative resolution, a commemorative plaque and a cash prize sponsored by ECMC Foundation. Yia was also honored via a Zoom ceremony where various school district leaders, family members, friends, students, and community leaders were present.

Marmaduke Award nominations are solicited annually by the California Student Aid Commission and is named after one of the longest running executive directors of the Commission: Arthur S. Marmaduke. Mr. Marmaduke served the Commission for 25 years from 1960 to 1985 and the award was established in 1985 to carry on his legacy of making education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians.

For more information on the Arthur S. Marmaduke High School Counselor Award, please visit <https://www.csac.ca.gov/arthur-s-marmaduke-high-school-counselor-award>.

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*The California Student Aid Commission administers the state’s \$4 billion portfolio of student financial aid programs and services, including the Cal Grant, the Middle Class Scholarship, and the California Dream Act Application. The Commission serves as a resource for policymakers and the public on college affordability and financing issues, and advocates for policy changes to eliminate cost as a barrier to anyqualified California student pursuing a higher education. Visit our website at <https://www.csac.ca.gov/> or follow us on Social Media by clicking on our Link Tree, <https://linktr.ee/castudentaid> .*