

# ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO  
SAVEMART CENTER  
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023

# Congratulations to the class of 2023!



Office of the President and Divisions of Academic Affairs,  
Administration and Finance, University Advancement, Student  
Affairs and Enrollment Management and Technology Services

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**STATE**<sup>®</sup>  
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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

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CALIFORNIA  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY,  
FRESNO

May 20, 2023

Members of the Graduating Class  
Asian American and Pacific Islander Graduation  
Celebration

Dear Graduates,

Congratulations! You are the members of the 112th graduating class of California State University, Fresno!

You are a testament of courage, strength, and excellence!

I applaud you for achieving this major milestone in your life. Fresno State is proud to have been part of your educational journey.

You are now part of Fresno State's legacy: With a Fresno State degree, doors of opportunity will open. A Fresno State degree empowers you to give back and elevate the quality of life of your family, neighbors, and friends.



When you look back, I know that you will view your time at Fresno State as one of personal and intellectual growth through hard work and persistence.

Congratulations to you and yours!

Please stay engaged with Fresno State. Wear Fresno State red and join me and our alumni in making the university the very best it can be!

Go 'Dogs!

Sincerely,

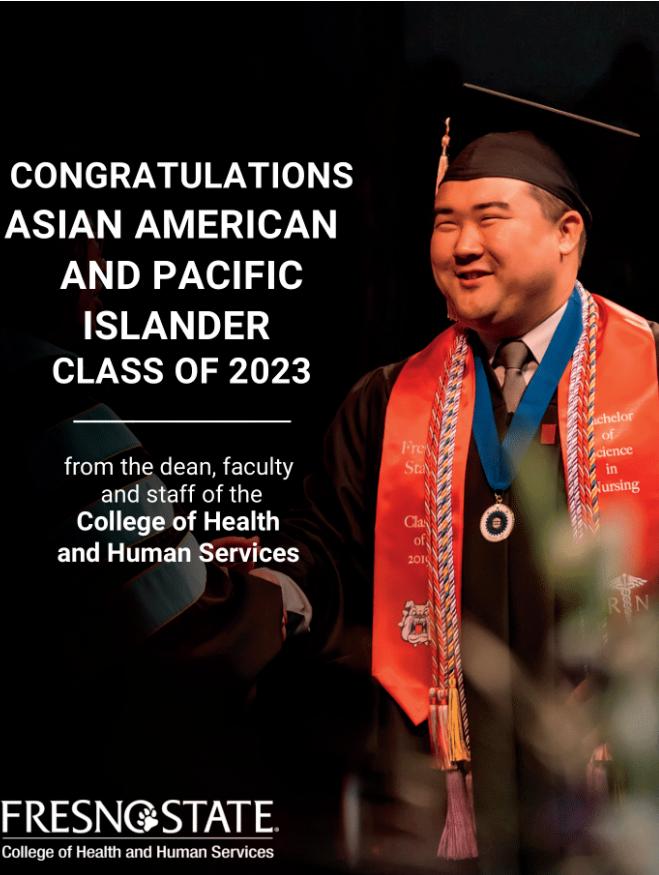
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Ph.D." with a small "25" written above the "u".

Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval, Ph.D.  
President

# Congratulations

**Asian American and  
Pacific Islander  
graduating  
class of 2023!**

The Division of Administration and Finance wishes you all the best with your future endeavors!

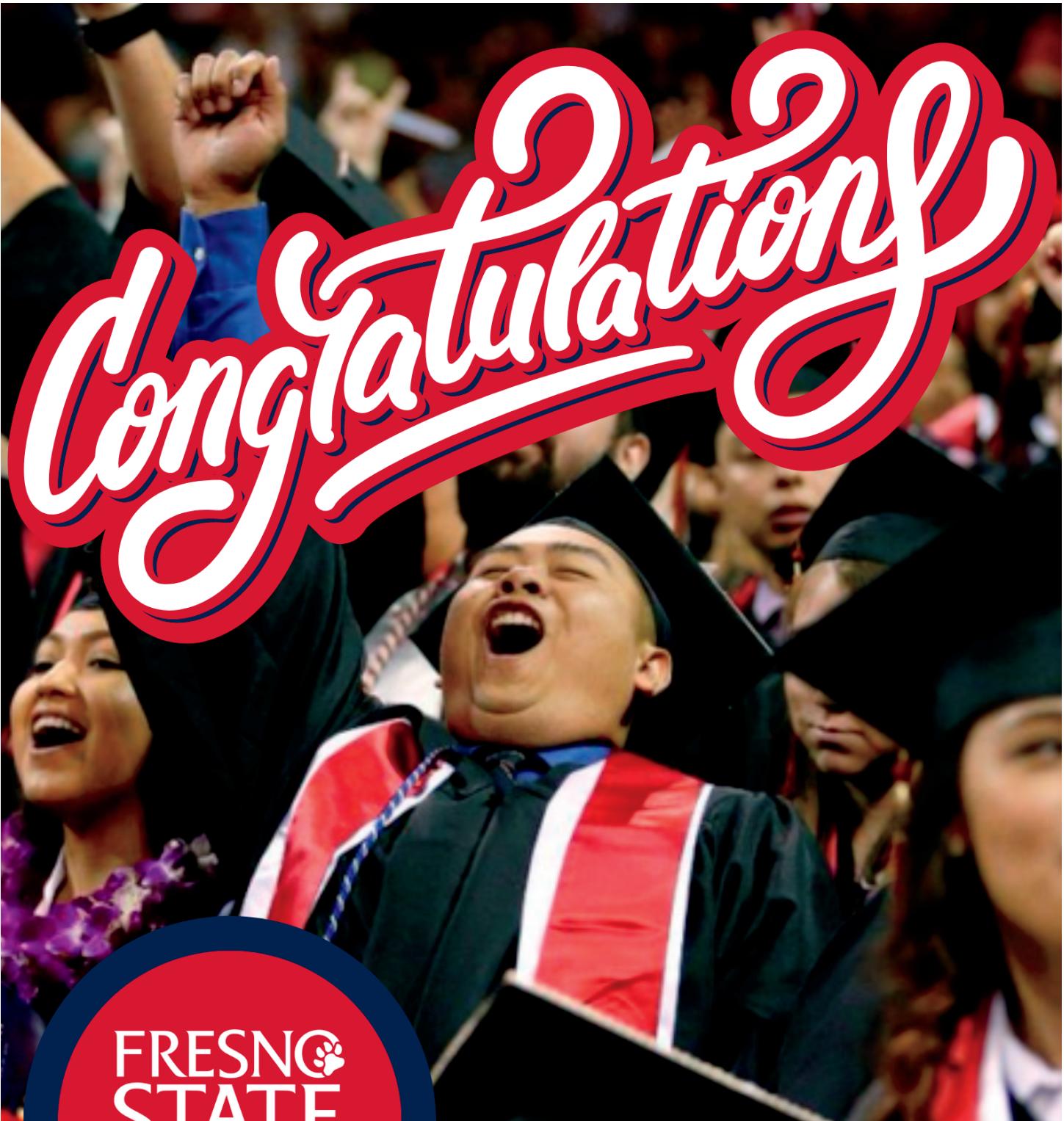


**CONGRATULATIONS  
ASIAN AMERICAN  
AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER  
CLASS OF 2023**

from the dean, faculty  
and staff of the  
College of Health  
and Human Services

**FRESNO STATE**  
College of Health and Human Services





**FRESNO**  
**STATE**<sup>®</sup>

Asian Faculty and  
Staff Association

Class of 2023,  
The Asian Faculty and Staff Association is proud  
to support Fresno State's AAPI Graduation  
Ceremony. We wish you the very best as you  
continue your journey.

[f](#) [t](#) @afsafresnostate

# Congratulations to the graduates!

Continuing and Global Education  
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[cge.fresnostate.edu](http://cge.fresnostate.edu)

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Education



# Congratulations to the **2023** graduating class!

*[socialsciences.fresnostate.edu](http://socialsciences.fresnostate.edu)*

*Congratulations  
College of Science and Mathematics 2023 Graduates*



From the Faculty and Staff of  
College of Science and Mathematics

Wishing you well as you enter a new  
and exciting phase of your life

Christopher R. Meyer, Dean  
Constance Jones, Interim Associate Dean

and the Departments of:

Biology, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Computer Science  
Earth and Environmental Sciences  
Mathematics, Physics and Psychology



# FRESNO STATE

College of Science and Mathematics



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER WENDA FONG

Wenda Fong began her 40-plus year career in television as the producer and host of her own live, talk show series in Los Angeles. Fong is the producer and director of music and variety specials, awards shows, reality specials, sitcoms, talk shows, documentaries, PSAs, and live events. She holds the dual distinction as being the first person of color and first woman to have produced the Emmy Awards. She has launched productions across the United States and around the world, including China, Canada, Europe and Africa.

In 2001, Fong joined the Fox Broadcasting Company and was with FOX for 13 years. She was its first Executive Director of Creative Development of Diversity and Vice President of Diversity Development. She created, developed and ran its diversity initiatives to increase the employment of diverse writers, directors, producers and actors. In 2002, she was appointed to oversee American Idol, which became the historical groundbreaking and network television ratings phenomenon. In 2003, Fong was promoted to Vice President of Alternative Entertainment where she supervised all reality series and specials representing thousands of hours of programming including American Idol, So You Think You Can Dance, Hell's Kitchen, MasterChef and The X Factor to name just a few.

Among her community service, Fong is co-founder and chairperson emeritus of CAPE, the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, which began in 1991 and is the largest, longest-running, and most influential organization for Asian American Pacific Islanders in the entertainment industry. She was president of East West Players, the nation's oldest Asian American theatre, and co-founded Asian Americans for Fair Media and served on the board of the Association of Asian Pacific American Artists. She was the co-chair of the Leaders Forum, served on the board of California Humanities, and is co-founder of The ACTION Project. Fong has been a member of the Directors Guild of America since 1980 and is founding co-chair and chairperson emeritus of the DGA Asian American Committee. She is a member of the Producers Guild of America and the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Fong received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian American Studies from the University of Southern California.



# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

## MARGOT KIM

Margot Kim co-anchors the evening newscasts, Action News Live at Six and Live at Eleven. She joined the ABC 30 Team in October 2004 when she returned to her hometown. Margot is a seven-time recipient of the National Academy Of Arts and Sciences Regional Emmy Award, earning the honors for her reporting and anchoring. She is also a 2016 honoree of the Girl Scouts of Central California South Women Inspiring Girls award. A graduate of Clovis West High School and the University of California, Irvine, Margot is a proud Fresno native who enjoys serving her community by mentoring youth, volunteering with local charities and organizations and singing the National Anthem at community events.



# STUDENT SPEAKER

## NICCOLE BALISTA JORGE



Niccole Jorge is an undergraduate student in the College of Science & Math and will graduate Magna Cum Laude as a Biology major with the hopes of going into medical school. She was born and raised in Quezon City, Philippines, and migrated with her family at the age of fifteen to Fresno, California. As a young child, Niccole had a distinct interest and affinity for medicine and biology. Her desire to become a physician started with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Spring of 2020. While completing her undergraduate degree, Niccole also became a Cardiac Monitor Technician at Community Regional Medical Center, a Level-I trauma center, where she aided other healthcare professionals serving on the frontlines during the pandemic. After graduation, Niccole plans to further develop her clinical skills as a medical scribe at the Emergency Departments of both Community Regional Medical Center and Saint Agnes Medical Center. As a future physician, Niccole is committed to serving the people of the Central Valley.

# *Congratulations* to the graduating Class of 2023



Central California Asian Pacific Women (CCAPW)  
supports Fresno State's Asian American and Pacific  
Islander Graduation Commencement.

Empowering generations of Asian Pacific Islander  
women in the Central Valley.

[www.linktr.ee/ccapw](http://www.linktr.ee/ccapw)





**Congratulations!**  
Graduates  
Class of 2023



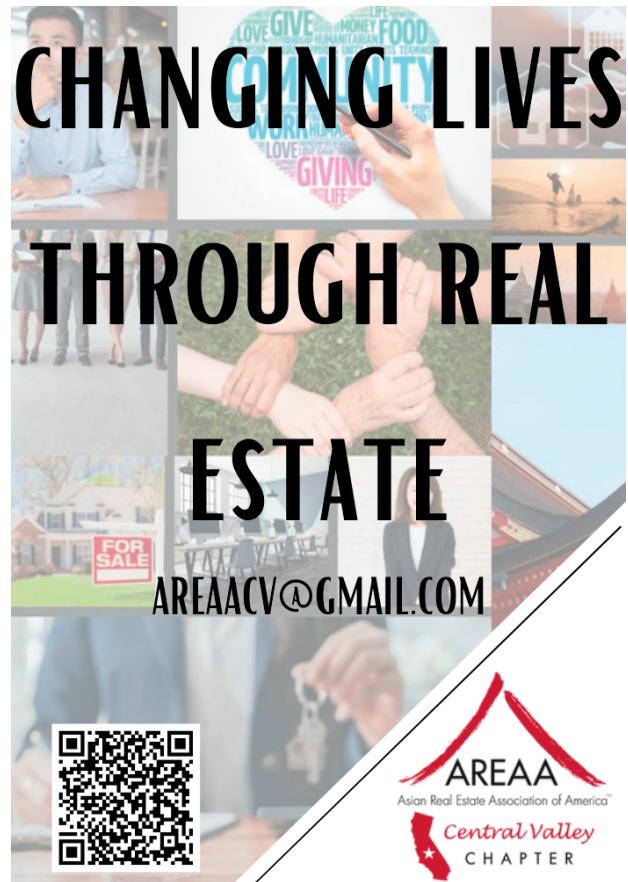
From the Department of  
Biology Faculty and Staff

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THROUGH REAL  
ESTATE

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AREAACV  
Asian Real Estate Association of America  
Central Valley Chapter



**FRESNO STATE**  
Research and Graduate Studies

*Congratulations!*



Wishing you all the best in your next steps!  
Interim Dean Joy J. Goto and the Division Staff

# Congratulations

## FRESNO STATE CLASS OF 2023!



Hmong Nurses  
Association,  
Fresno Chapter  
supports higher  
education in the  
Asian American &  
Pacific Islander  
community.



Fresno Chapter

For more information on Hmong Nurses Association, Fresno Chapter, email  
[hna.fresno@gmail.com](mailto:hna.fresno@gmail.com)



# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

## 2023 AAPI COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

**Saturday, May 20, 2023 • TIME • Fresno State Student Recreation Center**

Processional.....	2023 AAPI Graduates
Academic Processional.....	Platform Party and Faculty
Introduction.....	Margot Kim
Guest Performance.....	Fresno Gumyo Taiko
Welcome.....	Dr. Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval <i>President, California State University, Fresno</i>
Introduction of Keynote Speaker.....	Dr. Brian Tsukimura
Keynote Speaker.....	Wenda Fong
Asian Faculty and Staff Association Statement.....	Dr. Earl Aguilera
Guest Performance.....	Ntxhais Txuj Ci
Fresno State ASI President Speech.....	Caroline Alvarez
Introduction to Student Speaker.....	Dean Joy Goto
Student Speaker.....	Niccole Balista Jorge
Presentation of Graduates.....	Dr. Mui Vuong and Tony Losongco
Congratulatory Remarks.....	Dr. Bao Johri
Closing Remarks.....	Margot Kim
Recessional.....	Platform Party, Faculty, Graduates

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# 2023 AAPI COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

## DOCTORATE

Gurpreet Kaur Bhogal

Shimel Her Saychou

## GRADUATE

Hardik Jain  
An Lyu  
Kathy Moua  
Lisa Moua  
Monish Gowda Nagaraj  
Sai Varun Puligilla  
Rithish Ramesh  
Komal Kaur Sekhon

Wesley Vanthal Sorenson  
Feng Kaye Teter  
saihemanth thota  
Thao Tran  
Kaochee Vang  
Bao Mai Moua Vue  
Jennifer Xiong-Moua

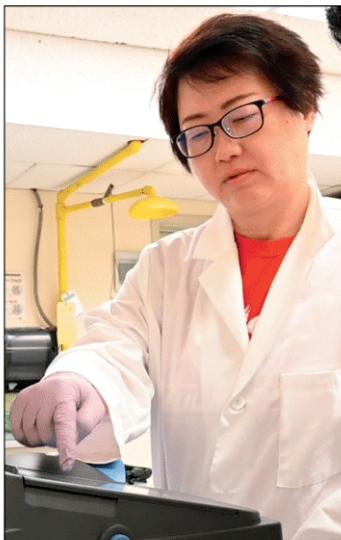
## CREDENTIALS

May Choua Lo Vang

## UNDERGRADUATE

James Matthew Ramos Alcantara  
Blessy Antonio  
Jego Angeles Canlas  
Mekaella Nicole Capucao  
Breann Chun  
Asia Christalyn DeMarre  
Rajini Eang  
Ronisa-Joy Cantorna Ellsworth  
Jacklyn Kate Fajardo  
He Guiping  
Kim Yengleng Her  
Sharon Her  
Jada Gao Gua Her  
Heidi Heredia  
Sosoumvannak William Hok  
Niccole Balista Jorge  
Chetna Radhika Kumar-Naicker

Matthew Rodriguez Kyle  
Steven Lee  
Hnub Lee  
Maika Lee  
Yer Lee  
Earl Felipe Ligtas  
Christmilthina Loeung  
Joshua Abcede Logan  
Jinwei Lu  
Narendra Mannan  
Sonja Gueqa Moua  
Maxie Moua  
Tuong Vi Nguyen  
Jerred Anthony Perez  
Keyanna Pinto  
Karen Pornnang



**Congratulations  
to our Graduates!**

from

Dr. Rolston St. Hilaire, Dean  
and the faculty and staff of the  
Jordan College of Agricultural  
Sciences and Technology

Agricultural Business

Animal Sciences and  
Agricultural Education

Food Science and Nutrition

Industrial Technology

Plant Science

Viticulture and Enology

*jcast.fresnostate.edu  
@FSJordanCollege*

# Congratulations

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC  
ISLANDER GRADUATES

**YOU MAKE US CRAIG SCHOOL PROUD!**

**FRESNO STATE**

Craig School of Business



*Congratulations,  
Class of 2023!*

from the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

Earn a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in 3 years of full-time study in-person or online. The program supports working professionals poised for leadership in P12 schools and districts, community colleges, and universities, who have a passion for social justice and equity.



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learn more!

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Educational Leadership



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**JACL**  
Japanese American Citizens League

## Central California District Council

Clovis • Fowler • Fresno • Livingston/Merced

Parlier • Reedley • Sanger • Selma • Tulare County

*Congratulations Fresno State  
AAPI Graduates!*

JACL is a national membership organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans *and all others* victimized by injustice and bigotry.

Leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote cultural, educational and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

For membership information, visit:  
[www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

- ♦ Undergraduate and graduate scholarships
- ♦ Internships and fellowships with AAPI leaders in Washington, DC
- ♦ Kakehashi youth exchange to Japan
- ♦ National Youth/Student Council



# Congratulations



to the  
**2023**  
graduates of the  
**Asian American**  
and  
**Pacific Islander**  
Commencement  
Celebration

Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

[academics.fresnostate.edu](http://academics.fresnostate.edu)



**JAPANESE AMERICAN  
CITIZENS LEAGUE**

*Congratulations  
Graduates!*



THE FRESNO CHAPTER OF THE JACL HONORS YOUR  
ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO  
BECOME A JACL MEMBER, THE NATION'S OLDEST  
AND LARGEST ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER  
CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION.

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**WWW.FRESNOJACL.ORG**

In honor of the CSU Nisei Diploma Project.

# 2023 AAPI COMMENCEMENT



Shimel Her Saychou  
Ed.D., Educational Leadership



Feng Kaye Teter  
M.S., Geology



Kathy Moua  
M.A., Higher Education Administration and Leadership



Komal Kaur Sekhon  
M.S., Viticulture and Enology



May Choua Lo Vang  
Single Subject Teaching Credential, French



Alison Yang  
B.S., Biology



Asia Christalyn DeMarre  
B.S., Biology



Christmilthina Loeung  
B.S., Business in Management



Grace Yang  
B.A., Psychology



Hnub Lee  
B.S., Business in Management



Jada Gao Gua Her  
B.S., Health Science in Community Health



Jennella Nicole Keahi Sanders  
B.S., Industrial Technology



Maika Lee  
B.S., Forensic Behavioral Sciences



Maxie Moua  
B.S., Psychology



Nathan S Vang  
B.S., Kinesiology Exercise Science



Pa Houa Vang  
B.A., Sociology



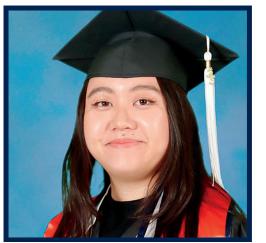
Rajini Eang  
B.S., Business Administration and Management



Rose Xiong  
B.S., Biology



Sherry Thaodara  
B.S., Kinesiology



Sonja Moua  
B.A., Animation



Yer Lee  
B.S., Business in Management

# CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

## NOT PICTURED (In alphabetical order per last name)

### DOCTORAL

Gurpreet Kaur Bhogal, Ed.D., Educational Leadership

### GRADUATE

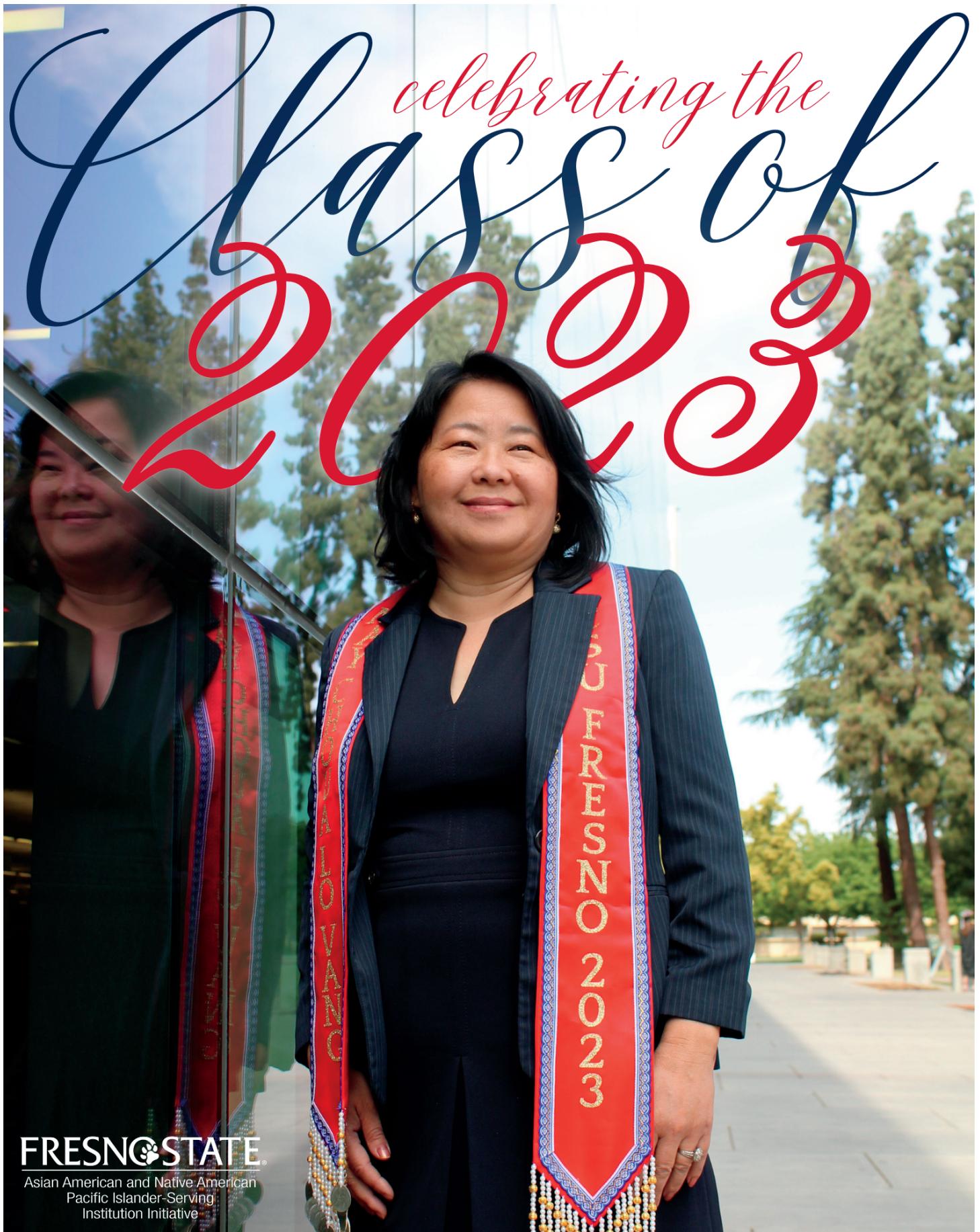
Hardik Jain, M.S., Computer Science  
An Lyu, M.S., Biology  
Lisa Moua, M.S., Marriage, Family and Child Counseling  
Monish Gowda Nagaraj, M.S., Computer Science  
Sai Varun Puligilla, M.S., Computer Engineering  
Rithish Ramesh, M.S., Computer Science  
Wesley Vanthal Sorenson, MPA, Public Administration

Saihemanth Thota, M.S., Computer Science  
Thao Tran, M.A., Special Education  
Kaochee Vang, M.S., Mathematics  
Bao Mai Moua Vue, M.S., Marriage, Family and Child Counseling  
Jennifer Xiong-Moua, M.A., Higher Education Administration and Leadership

### UNDERGRADUATE

James Matthew Alcantara, B.A., Communication  
Blessy Antonio, B.A., Sociology  
Jego Angeles Canlas, B.A., Music Education  
Mekaella Nicole Capucao, B.S., Health Science in Community  
Breann Chun, B.A., Psychology  
Ronisa-Joy Cantorna Ellsworth, B.A., Psychology  
Jacklyn Kate Fajardo, B.S., Biology  
He Guiping, B.A., Communicative Science and Deaf Studies  
Kim Yengleng Her, B.A., Economics  
Sharon Her, B.A., Psychology  
Heidi Heredia, B.A., Psychology  
Sosoumvannak William Hok, B.A., Animation  
Niccole Balista Jorge, B.S., Biology  
Chetna Radhika Kumar-Naicker, B.S., Psychology  
Matthew Rodriguez Kyle, B.S., Biology  
Steven Lee, B.A., Sociology  
Earl Felipe Ligtas, B.S., Kinesiology  
Joshua Abcede Logan, B.S., Sports Administration  
Jinwei Lu, B.S., Mathematics  
Narendra Mannan, B.S., Computer Science  
Tuong Vi Nguyen, B.S., Computer Science  
Jerred Anthony Perez, B.S., Exercise Science

Keyanna Pinto, B.S., Biology  
Karen Pornnang, B.A., Sociology  
Matthew Rodriguez, B.S.  
Bryan Corpuz Rullan, B.S., Kinesiology  
Christy Solita Sean, B.S., Accountancy  
Murphy Sean, B.S., Kinesiology Exercise Science  
Phorn Sok, B.S., Criminology  
Nola Thipannha, B.S., Business Marketing  
Miranda Yasmine Thor, B.A., Liberal Studies  
Dung Huu Tran, B.S., Biology  
Judith O Turner, B.A., Liberal Studies  
Lily Vang, B.A., Child Development  
Kayleen Nkaujzoo Vang  
Sarah Lili Vor, B.A., Liberal Studies  
Alexia Nuchi Vue, B.A., Political Science  
Jerry Ntxoov Lws Vue, B.S., Civil Engineering  
Nuchia Vue, B.S., Kinesiology Exercise Science  
Tou Cher Vue, B.S., Civil Engineering  
Cindy Xiong, B.A., Criminology and Psychology  
Pengsu Xiong, B.A., Game Design  
Hunter Tylo Xiong, B.S. Business in Marketing  
Chuye Jovi Yang, B.A., Psychology  
Lisa See Yang, B.S. Civil Engineering



**FRESNO STATE**

Asian American and Native American  
Pacific Islander-Serving  
Institution Initiative

## CONGRATULATORY NOTES

