

Stanley Chong Scholarship award ceremony of Chinese American Association of Minnesota held at Xiang Jiang Pavilion

By Zan Gao and Yingying Chen, contributors

Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM) is the oldest and largest Chinese American community organization in Minnesota. Its mission is to provide cultural, educational, recreational, and other programs to promote the cultural heritage and enhance the Chinese Americans' quality of life in Minnesota. On April 24, 2021, CAAM held the 2020-2021 Stanley Chong Scholarship Award Ceremony at the Xiangjiang Pavilion in the St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden in Phalen Regional Park. For the safety concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, CAAM decided to present the awards in a relatively safe outdoor environment. The 19 winners and their families were scheduled to arrive at the scene one family at a time every 5 minutes between 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to receive the award certificates. Notably, Xiangjiang Pavilion is the sister pavilion of Ai Wan Pavilion in Changsha, Hunan, China. It inherits the long-standing Chinese traditional art and culture. Thus, it has a special meaning for delivering the awards for the next generation of Chinese Americans at the Xiangjiang Pavilion.



Ping and awarded twin sisters with their mom

ents, came to Xiangjiang Pavilion from all parts of the Twin Cities areas according to their schedules. The CAAM board members greeted the students and their families with enthusiasm, instructed them to sign documents, issued award certificates, and took photos with the winners in front of the large-scale CAAM logo, which kept them busy all the time.

CAAM provides CAAM-Stanley Chong scholarships to senior Chinese American high school students, who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents, in the state of Minnesota to support their cost of study and living during their undergraduate studies. The scholarship was established in the name



Three CAAM board members (from left: Zan Gao, Ping Wang and Jung Wu) on site

The weather was getting warm but still chilly at the Phalen Regional Park on that day. The breeze was blowing, white clouds were passing by, the plants were sprouting, and the water in the lake appeared to be as blue as the sky. The chillness of the weather did not affect the enthusiasm of CAAM board members. The President of CAAM, Mr. Ping Wang, arrived early at the Xiangjiang Pavilion to set up for the event. Board members, Zan Gao and Rongsheng Wu also came to help award the certificates. After that, the award-winning senior high school students, accompanied by their par-



Zan Gao guiding signature

of the second chairman of CAAM, Mr. Stanley Chong, who was a famous Chinese American entrepreneur in the Twin-Cities. The Stanley and Marvel Chong Foundation has always been the most generous primary supporter of this scholarship. According to President Ping Wang, the CAAM has provided more than \$210,000 in scholarships to more than 60 Chinese American students in the Twin Cities area since 2018. This scholarship has been widely supported and praised by the local Chinese American community. Of note, during the evaluation process of the scholarship application, the participation and volunteer services of the applicants and their parents in any CAAM organized events, such as Festival of Nations, are highly valued by the review panel. Also, the applicants' experience of attending CAAM Chinese Dance Theater and CAAM Chinese Language School play important roles in the evaluation. In the past three years, the review committee has been following open



An awardee with her mom in front of Xiangjiang Pavilion

and transparent application procedures and policies to ensure fair and impartial review among all applicants, and the requirements for completeness and compliance of application materials have become increasingly stringent (<https://www.caam.org/scholarships/>). This year the CAAM Scholarship Review Committee also considered the applicant's special contribution to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and finally selected the 19 outstanding winners, one of whom was only 15 years old. It is reported that these winners will enroll in the following prestigious universities respectively, including but not limited to: Harvard University, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Rice University, Vanderbilt University, University of Southern California, University of Wisconsin at Madison, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, St. Cloud State University, and some other universities for further study. ♦





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Stanley Chong Scholarship recipients



Hanna Buss - Buss Homeshcool



Huan Chen - White Bear Lake Area High School




Leo Cui - Mounds View High School

Stanley Chong Scholarship recipients

Continued from page 7

温暖在人间
心连心与你同在
RHYTHM OF SPRING III
2021 PRODUCTION
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **DAO LAN**



TWIN CITIES CHINESE DANCE CENTER
双城华人舞蹈中心
Saturday, June 12, 7:00PM, 2021
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC19Cor972rdVo1GvdE93gmA>
www.tccdcmn.org (651)410-6225



Jason Wang - Irondale High School



Andrew Yang - Wayzata High School



Claire Wilcox - Highland Park Senior High School



Dylan Yang - Eden Prairie High School



Richard Gu - Wayzata High School



Sydney Peng - Mounds View High School



Issac Wu - Edina High School



Kelly Zeng - Wayzata High School



Claire Ku - Wayzata High School



Bryanna Shao - Wayzata High School



Joey Wu - South Washington County School



Xiaoxin Zeng - Jefferson High School



Echo Grey Qing Nelson - Eagan High School



Cynthia Shao - Wayzata High School



Kelly Wu - Prior Lake High School



Audrey Zhou - Wayzata High School