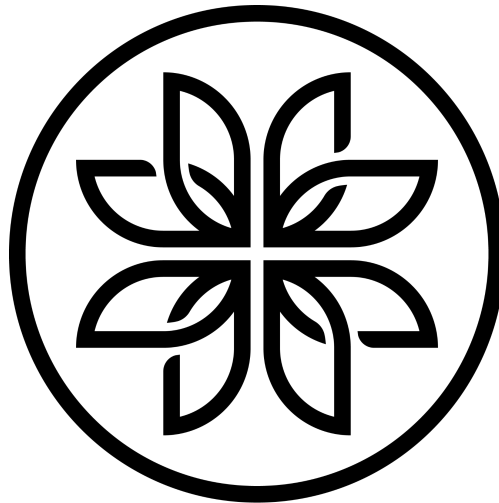


# Scholarship Packet



UVSA-MIDWEST

# **22nd Annual Vietnamese Interacting As One Conference**

## **2025 Scholarship Packet**

**Deadline: Friday, January 31st, 2025 at 11:59 PM CT**

**Decisions by: February 10th, 2025, at 11:59PM CT**

For any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to our Sponsorship Committee at [via1.spo@uvsamidwest.org](mailto:via1.spo@uvsamidwest.org).

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# First of Many

*For those who are just starting out their journey, this scholarship is a great fit for you! The “First of Many” scholarship aims to support those who are active in their local VSA and lift them up through VIA-1. This scholarship challenges applicants to ask themselves why they choose VSA and why it’s so important to be a part of VSA beyond just VIA-1.*

**Donor:** Tom Nguyen

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- PRIORITY for first-time attendees to VIA-1
  - If you have attended another UVSA-MW flagship event before this conference, this scholarship still applies
- MUST BE an active student at any UVSA-MW charter school
- MUST BE an active member or E-board member at your local VSA

## Questions:

- What school do you attend?
- Do you attend your local VSA events?
- Is this your first VIA-1 student conference?
- What do you hope to gain from the weekend of this conference?
- Why VSA?

## About Tom:

*Tom graduated from IUPUI (now known as IUI) with a Bachelor’s in Finance. Raised in Indiana, Tom enjoys being active, going out with friends, and going for walks with his dog. This year will be Tom’s 4th time attending a VIA-1 conference.*

## Go Blue, Go VSA!

*Hail to the Victors! VSA at the University of Michigan (UMich VSA) is proud to present both the 22nd Annual VIA-1 and the "Go Blue, Go VSA!" Scholarship! For the growing Wolverine community, this scholarship hopes to remind you of the importance of home and why you chose VSA. VIA-1 is just one of the opportunities that U-M VSAs can provide for its members and we hope you take advantage of this scholarship to share the knowledge and show off your Michigan pride!*

**Donor:** Jason Ngo

**Type of Scholarship:** Half Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 4

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

### Who can apply?

- Currently attend or graduated from the University of Michigan (any campus)

### Questions:

- What does VSA mean to you? (200-300 words)
- What is home to you? (200-300 words)
- How do you apply what you gained from VSA to your everyday life? (200-300 words)
- What is the best Vietnamese noodle dish and why? (100-150 words)

### About Jason:

*Jason Ngo is an alumnus of the University of Michigan and currently serves as one of the current Board of Directors. Previously serving as the Michigan CoSR for the 2019-2020 term, Jason's goal has always been to make VIA-1 as accessible as possible for the attendees from the University of Michigan.*

# Why You Serve

*As blossoming leaders, the biggest question that we must ask or find ourselves asking is "Why?". The "Why You Serve" scholarship is an opportunity to think and reflect on what drives you to strive for greatness each day. It is an opportunity to think about why you've made the decisions you have and how you will make your decisions in the future. It is important to take some time and be more cognizant of your motivations and drive.*

*As a great man once said, " 'Find your why, and you'll find your way.' - John C. Maxwell" -Johnny Tran*

**Donor:** Johnny Tran

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 2

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- Open for all!

## Questions:

- Please write a short paragraph on what motivates you (your "Why"). (Max 350 words)
  - Some example prompts could include:*
    - *Why you joined VSA*
    - *Why you chose to go to VIA-1*
    - *Why do you get up in the morning*
- Please attach a quote that you really like and a short explanation of why you like it. (Max 350 words)

## About Johnny:

*Johnny Tran is a graduate from the University of Cincinnati who served as the EVP for his Local VSA before graduating with a chemistry degree. He is currently pursuing his PharmD at the University of Cincinnati and in his free time, he enjoys working out, playing pickleball, and helping his community.*

## Are You on "BoarD" For Some \$\$\$?

*The Board of Directors hopes to provide the opportunity for the recipient of this scholarship to enjoy VIA-1 and bring back what is gained from VIA-1 back to their Vietnamese community with less financial burden. UVSA-Midwest has given each member of the Board of Directors invaluable life lessons, incredible professional development, and long-lasting friendships. In appreciation of this, they hope to empower a member of the UVSA-Midwest community and increase their accessibility through this scholarship.*

**Donor:** 2024-2025 UVSA-MW Board of Directors

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

### Who can apply?

- PRIORITY to attendees and staff
- MUST BE a UVSA-MW constituent

### Questions:

- What are you hoping to gain from attending this VIA-1? (600 characters max)
- How do you plan to apply what you have gained from this VIA-1 to support your local Vietnamese community, whether your own VSA or another community? (1000 characters max)
- What makes you unique as a leader versus other applicants for this scholarship? (800 characters max)

### About Board of Directors:

*Board of Directors (BoD) are a group of previous UVSA-Midwest Executive Board members, leaders within UVSA-Midwest, and/or other leaders from other community organizations. They are passionate about giving back to the community that has shaped them into the professionals they are today. The 2024-2025 cohort consists of Jason Ngo, Linda Ngo, Sue Nguyen, Kim Vu, Khang Phan, Steven Nguyen, and James Nguyen.*

## ✨ Rising Stars of the Midwest ✨

*Through tough times, through adversity, and through all the obstacles that we face in our everyday lives. We find solace in being a part of the VSA space. Whether it is your social community, your professional network, or your second family - you've been able to find a space where you can build yourself and RISE. This scholarship is to grant a Midwest constituent the opportunity to continue their growth in the space and allow them to immerse themselves in an experience that can truly elevate them to new heights and rise to the occasion as future leaders of our society.*

**Donor:** David Tran

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 2

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

### **Who can apply?**

- PRIORITY to first time attendees OR Michigan attendees
- MUST BE a UVSA-MW constituent

### **Questions:**

- What is a fond memory in VSA that reminded you of home?
- What is the vision that you have for the future of your life goals and how can VSA help with that?
- What/Who inspired you to be where you are today?

### **About David:**

*With roots from the Midwest region, David Tran (he/him/his) is an operator, who thrives on making things work efficiently, streamlined, and progressive while also making time for fun and creating memories in his busy time. David's journey VSA started back in 2018 at Michigan State University and has been progressing since, with experience on a local, regional, and national level. Some of his previous roles that he has held were the 22'-24' External Vice President for UVSA Midwest, Council of Regional Representatives, Michigan CoSR, and Programming Director for VIA-1. David has also been Co-CPP Director for UNAVSA and now is currently the Internal Vice President on International Board. He enjoys traveling (plane enthusiast), planning, and spending cozy time watching shows and playing games.*



# Show Your Color Scholarship

*College is a time to develop yourself and find your passions. Each person is unique in what they like and what they want to do. VIA-1 is a great place to find people who are passionate about the same things as you as well as a place to bring things that are unique to you to others. This scholarship wants to provide an opportunity for attendees to show off their own unique color in any way they can think of.*

**Donor:** Brian Nguyen

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 2

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- PRIORITY to Nebraska University attendees

## Questions:

- What is your favorite color?
- How do you intend to bring your unique color to VIA-1?

## About Brian:

*Brian Nguyen is an alum of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and served on multiple leadership positions within his local VSA. He has also served as a staff member and committee director for VIA-1 and UVSA-Midwest Cabinet. His favorite animals are manta rays and his favorite pastime is sleeping.*

## Made by Asian America.

*"Cultural identity is a subtle, yet pervasive factor that dictates our everything. It draws us towards certain dietary preferences, communication behaviors, spiritual attachments, ways-of-working, and much more. Yet, within the day-in and day-outs of life in America, seldom are we presented with the opportunity to dig deep into who we are.*

*As I've grown older, I have spent more time understanding my place in America as an Asian - where are the societal limitations, what have influenced my idiosyncrasies, why is my relationship with my family the way it is, how have I changed my behavior to fit into cultural America and how I have fought back to reclaim my space back as an Asian in America. Through this scholarship, I ask you the same."*

**Type of Scholarship:** Half-Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 2

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

### Who can apply?

- MUST BE in school (Undergrad or Postgrad)
  - Excluded from working professionals

### Questions:

- Describe your cultural identity story
  - What does it mean to you?
  - How have you created space into understanding more?
  - And what gaps within your understanding do you wish to spend more time learning?

# The Journey Within

*The Journey Within scholarship is an opportunity to reflect on one's journey, whether intellectually, academically, culturally, or all the above. Originally started in 2019, the scholarship has been awarded to individuals who demonstrate a commitment to personal growth, leadership, and community. Applicants are asked to submit a reflection essay that serves three purposes: (1) to ruminate on their experiences, (2) to plan the next "destination" of their journey, and (3) to demonstrate growth from their journey thus far.*

**Donor:** Tony Do

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

**[APPLICATION INFORMATION](#)**

## Who can apply?

- CANNOT BE on staff

## Questions:

- The Vietnamese experience is not monolithic. Our parents' journey - their stories, trauma, and experiences - has set the starting point of our own lives. We are a continuation of that story. Reflect on who you are and how you have grown.
- Applicants should respond in a minimum of 350 words: What is your story? Where is your destination? Why? What has been the most influential "stop" on your journey?

## About Tony:

*Tony Do is a proud chemical engineering graduate from the University of Notre Dame with a passion for innovation and problem-solving. He works as an Engineer Consultant. Outside of his professional pursuits, Tony enjoys immersing himself in the thrill of Formula 1 racing (cheering on Red Bull!), exploring new video games, and mastering personal finance strategies. His involvement with UVSA-Midwest has been transformative, fostering both personal growth and professional development.*

# Home is Where the Heart Is!

*The "Home is Where the Heart Is!" Scholarship is an opportunity to reflect and open one's heart. Focusing on the nostalgic aspect of this year's theme, "Memories of Home," applicants are asked to describe what home is to them and how they connect to home when they miss it.*

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- PRIORITY to staff (excluding FLs)

## Questions:

- What is home to you?
- What do you do when you miss home?
- Name one song that you listen to when you miss home.

# The Lesson of the Lotus: Honoring Our Indigenous Roots

*How has your background and family lineage helped to shape you into the leader you are today? Where do your roots grow from? The Lesson of the Lotus: Honoring Our Indigenous Roots Scholarship is aimed to help support a developing student leader and community organizer. It is vital to reflect on where our roots come from and respect the ancestors that have come before us. Please give your story on how you have been impacted by those who have come before you and paved the way for your success.*

**Donor:** Amanda Vo

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- Open for all!

## Questions:

- How has your background and family lineage helped to shape you into the leader you are today? (500 word limit)
- Where do your roots grow from? (500 word limit)
- Please give your story on how you have been impacted by those who have come before you and paved the way for your success. (500 word limit)

## About Amanda:

*Amanda Vo is a non-binary Vietnamese American and strong mental health advocate. Amanda currently works as a tax accountant and marketing consultant with their business Saigon Accounting & Consulting under the business their grandparents started, Nhà Sách Saigon, in 1986 in Minnesota. In their free time, Amanda loves pursuing their hobbies of event management, photography, and graphic design. Amanda strives to give back to the community and build the next generation of leaders.*

# “Don’t make E-Board e-bored” Scholarship

*E-Board? More like e-bored, because that is what your scholarship application is making us feel like. Mama let’s research!*

**Donor:** 2024-2026 UVSA-MW Executive Board

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- MUST BE registered for VIA-1
- MUST BE currently on UVSA-MW staff (CoSR, CoRR, Cabinet, VIA-1 staff)

## Questions:

- What was your favorite childhood TV show or cartoon, and why? (max 250 words)

## About Executive Board:

*The 2024-2026 Executive Board of the Union of the Vietnamese Student Association of the Midwest consists of five members: Branson Dao, Kenny Nguyen, Nathan Vo, Oanh Lam, and H.A. Le. Each board member is committed to advancing the mission of empowering and uplifting the Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American communities in the Midwestern U.S. through leadership, advocacy, and cultural preservation.*

# SPOOOO-tastic Raffle

*Think you're the luckiest person at VIA-1? Test it now!*

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

**Who can apply?**

- Open to all!

**Questions:**

- Just add your name and email :)

# VSA@University of Michigan Scholarship

*For those of us who call Michigan home, we hold memories dear and use them to shift our lives as we grow up. VSA has played an important role for many of us and this is a chance to show off the impact this space has made on you.*

**Donor:** Uyen Nguyen

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 4

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- MUST BE a University of Michigan student (any campus)
- MUST BE an active or new U-M VSA member (any campus)

## Questions:

- Please submit an updated resume.
- What is a memory of VSA or UVSA-Midwest you have experienced so far that has changed an aspect of your life? (150 words)

## About Uyen:

*Hi, I'm Uyen (she/hers). I graduated from the University of Michigan in 2019 with a BSE in Mechanical Engineering and an MSE in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. I currently reside in Seattle, WA working as a Software Development Engineer.*

*I have an extensive history with my local VSA, VSA UMich (2014-2019) and UVSA-Midwest (2016-2022). Back in 2016, I was introduced to VIA-1 through my local VSA, and it turned out to be one of the most prominent moments in my undergraduate career. I was able to meet a variety of individuals who I was able to learn from, mentor, and become lifelong friends with, and I want to be able to provide others with the same opportunity.*



## Buckeye Grove

*Making quite the journey from Buckeye Grove to various VSA meeting locations on campus, this was the place in which Rachel first began her VSA journey. Rachel's VSA origin story is one that she holds very dearly to her. The story goes that she had known about VSA from her older cousins and decided to join. It wasn't until she got to the first meeting that she made a complete fool of herself and logged her attendance under the name, Nguyen Nguyen. LIKE HOW MANY NGUYEN'S DO YOU KNOW IN VSA HUH? Yeah, little freshman Rachel was very embarrassed. Nonetheless, she made the best connections that day because of this. She was able to laugh it off that day with her soon to be lifelong friends, mentors, wonderful Chi, and countless Ems. Soon enough, little did she know she would also meet some of the best quality people all across the states at her first VIA-1 in Kansas. Not only did VSA shape her college experience, it led her to grow professionally in a cultivating environment to which she is forever grateful. Buckeye Grove is a half registration scholarship that supports one individual from The Ohio State University Vietnamese Student Association to attend VIA-1 2025.*

**Donor:** Rachel Nguyen

**Type of Scholarship:** Half Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships available:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

### Who can apply?

- MUST BE an active student of The Ohio State University and member of Vietnamese Student Association at The Ohio State University (OSUVSA).

### Questions:

- Tell me a story! Include your VSA origin story and maybe what led you to stay active in VSA enough to make it here, to the 22nd VIA-1! Please also highlight an experience in which you believe VSA has shaped you. It can be a positive or negative one, as long as you believe it was impactful.

### About Rachel:

*This is Rachel, a graduate of The Ohio State University and alumni of OSUVSA! Currently in her second gap year working in pediatric emergency medicine clinical research hoping to pursue medical school in the near future. She is very proud and hopes to see so much success in our UVSA-MW community.*

# Return To Our Roots Scholarship

*The Return To Our Roots Scholarship, sponsored by the Vietnamese Student Association at Purdue (VSAP), is dedicated to empowering individuals to reflect on their heritage and embrace their cultural identity. This scholarship aims to support attendees of the 22nd Annual VIA-1 Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as they embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery and leadership. Through this opportunity, VSAP hopes to inspire recipients to honor their roots while building a brighter future as leaders in their communities.*

**Donor:** VSA at Purdue University & Alums

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships:** 2

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- PRIORITY to first time attendees from Purdue University
- MUST BE a VIA-1 Attendee
- MUST BE a former or current member of VSAP

## Questions:

- Why did you decide to attend the 22nd Annual VIA-1 Conference?
- What does the conference theme, “Memories of Home: Ký Ức Quê Nhà”, mean to you? How does it resonate with your personal journey or connection to your heritage?
- What impact do you hope to make within VSAP or the greater Vietnamese community after attending this conference?

## About VSA Purdue:

*The Vietnamese Student Association at Purdue was founded in 1997 to foster a diverse and inclusive community that celebrates and promotes Vietnamese culture, heritage, and traditions at Purdue University, across the Midwest, and throughout the nation. Through social and cultural events, we aim to cultivate greater cultural awareness and appreciation among both Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese individuals. By providing opportunities for individuals to immerse themselves in Vietnamese culture, we strive to bridge cultural gaps, promote mutual understanding, and create lasting connections within our university and beyond.*

# JorTonSue Scholarship

*The donors of this scholarship hope to provide the opportunity to someone to attend VIA-1 to network and take advantage of what VIA-1 has to offer. One individual will be selected for this scholarship who illustrates the most enthusiasm for the upcoming 22nd VIA-1.*

**Donors:** Jordan Cao, Tony Do, and Sue Nguyen

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships:** 1

[APPLICATION LINK](#)

## Who can apply?

- MUST BE VIA-1 Attendee

## Questions:

- What is your proudest accomplishment and why? (350 words max)
- What parts of VIA-1 are you looking forward to the most and why? (500 words max)
- What is your best joke? (Hint: The person with the best joke will win.)

## About Jordan, Tony, and Sue:

*Jordan Cao, Tony Do, and Sue Nguyen are previous and current Board of Directors of UVSA-Midwest. These three are full-time working individuals who maintain an everlasting bond that began with UVSA-Midwest. Outside of work, these three enjoy late-night talks, yummy food, going on adventures, naps, and quality time with their loved ones.*

## **NEW! The Xi Chapter of Sigma Psi Zeta Scholarship**

Sigma Psi Zeta's core values are the **10 rays** of SYZterhood, which **consist of Integrity, Legacy, Scholarship, Philanthropy, Professionalism, Community, SYZterhood, Culture, Citizenship, and Activism**. This scholarship reflects our Community ray as a means to support our own individual SYZters' personal endeavors through their involvement in the VIA-1 conference, in addition to our Scholarship and Culture rays.

**Donor:** Sigma Psi Zeta - Xi Chapter

**Type of Scholarship:** Full Registration Fee

**Number of Scholarships Available:** 1

**[APPLICATION LINK](#)**

### **Who can apply?**

- MUST BE female or non-binary individual
- MUST BE fully registered for VIA-1.
- MUST BE a first time attendee

### **Questions:**

- Pick one of our ten rays. How do you best exemplify it?

### **About Sigma Psi Zeta:**

Sigma Psi Zeta is a progressive multicultural Greek organization that provides a means to success and support for women and non-binary individuals, particularly people of color.