

# VY THAO NGUYEN

## BCC ACHIEVEMENTS:

- AS-T DEGREE IN BUSINESS
- AA DEGREE IN HUMANITIES
- LIBERAL ARTS CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
- LIBERAL ARTS IGETC CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT
- 2017 PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION AWARD RECIPIENT



VY NGUYEN recipient of Berkeley City College's 2017 President's Medallion, was born in Vietnam and migrated with her family to the United States when she was 10. For her family, the journey to achieving the American dream was a long and tough one. Vy grew up with both her parents working multiple jobs while she took care of her younger brother. She lived in numerous neighborhoods where she witnessed neighbors become teenage parents, friends become incarcerated, and even others lose their lives to drugs. The pain imprinted on her heart is what drives her to find a solution. She chose to return to school to examine the root causes of poverty, discrimination, crime and mass incarceration.

At BCC, Vy has thrived taking courses across disciplines including English, Math, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Human Services and Education, making her a well-rounded student and a global citizen. Vy believes true equality will only come when we "get rid of sentencing disparity,

economic disparity, and even health disparity," through reforms.

Since coming to BCC, Vy has volunteered for several programs in the Bay Area, including VITA, which provides tax filing assistance to low income families, The Prisoners Literature Project, which provides books and pen pals to inmates, and Be A Mentor Organization, where she mentored the son of an incarcerated father. For Vy, this work has deepened her understanding and passion for community, social justice, and equality. More importantly, the work has empowered her to take the next steps to help deconstruct and rebuild some of our broken systems. Vy will be studying Economics and Political Science at UC Berkeley in Fall 2017.

*"I believe that in order to obliterate institutionalized discrimination and poverty, we have to focus on bringing forth economic and social equality,"*



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