LAO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OPPORTUNTY

Are you in high school, Lao, and INTERESTED IN going to COLLEGE?

Want to LEARN MORE ABOUT LAOS and your ethnic heritage?

Would you like to MAKE A SOLAR CELL AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY?

If **yes**, please consider teaming up with a **Stanford** graduate student and the **Center for Lao Studies** in a program to study energy and resource use that will help you get into **college**.

In this program you will learn about **Energy and Resource (E&R) use** related to the Lao culture in three parts:

Past: How were E&R used in Laos before your family arrived in the United States? You will be assisted in interviewing family and friends to obtain this information.

Present: What are the current E&R issues in Laos? Find out what the international community is talking about. Laos is developing quickly and has gained international attention in recent years surrounding E&R use.

Future: What types of E&R issues are being planned for Laos' future? How might this impact the country and its many cultures? Are there different approaches that could be taken? Visit Stanford and make your own solar cell with Stanford graduate students and learn about Stanford University!

Requirements:

- A strong desire to learn and an interest in this topic
- Willingness to find out new information on your own
- Previous knowledge of Laos is not required

Benefits:

- Learn about your ethnic heritage
- Learn effective research skills and develop your writing and science skills
- Stanford and the Center for Lao Studies will offer to write recommendation letters for you to go to College

Logistics: During the year, students will meet at a central location for meetings (such as the Center for Lao Studies in San Francisco or the Lao Temple) to discuss projects and any related topics. Students will be given a stipend for travel to all meetings and events. Travel to and from Stanford will be either by van or by public transportation and lunch will be provided.

Timeline: In a little over one summer, students will interview family members about traditional E&R use in Laos, research current E&R issues in Laos, and perform lab experiments with renewable energy technologies that are applicable both in the U.S. and in Laos. Upon completing their research projects, students will write up results in a report and will make creative presentations of their findings to the general public.

Tentative Schedule:

- May 24: Application Deadline
- June 1: Orientation at the Lao Temple
- June 14: Concept Topic related to Energy and Resource Use in Laos due
- June 22: Meeting on Concept Topic and Relation to Current Issues in Laos (location TBD)
- July: Interviews with family members
- Late July/Early August: Day at Stanford with Lab (Tentatively Aug 3-4: likely a Saturday evening in SF or East Bay and all day Sunday event at Stanford)
- Aug 17: Final meeting to discuss project wrap-up. Plan for writing report and making presentation on findings (location TBD)
- Late August/September: Report due and presentation to family, friends and the general public at the Center for Lao Studies.

***Note:** Dates are tentative and general availability on weekends is desirable. We hope to accommodate everyone's schedules.*

Interested? *Please send application/recommendation to mmachala@stanford.edu*

Questions?

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Background:
Over the centuries, Laos has woven a rich cultural tapestry that reflects its relative isolation as the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia. Throughout this time, neighboring superpowers and colonial rule have influenced the region, but many of its ethnic groups and traditions have remained relatively isolated until recently.[1] In the mid-twentieth century the country underwent dramatic political transformation underscored by the spillover of the Vietnam War across Lao-Vietnamese borders. The so-called Secret CIA War in Laos resulted in a massive bombing campaign against the Viet Minh-supported Pathet Lao, with two million tons of cluster bombs dropped on the country between 1964 and 1973.[1] The fall of the U.S.-backed Royal Lao Government to the Pathet Lao saw the birth of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) in 1975 (still referred to as Laos). After the fall of the Royal Lao Government, a surge of Lao refugees, many of who had supported the anti-communist resistance, sought political asylum in the U.S.; a significant percentage settled in the East Bay Area.

In this project, we want to help connect the children and grandchildren of these refugees with their ethnic heritage and to support their bright futures.

[1] G. Evans, A Short History of Laos: a land in between, Allena and Unwin (2002).

Application

Basic information

Name:

High School:

Year in High School:

Home Address:

Phone number:

E-mail address:

Questions

Why do you want to go to college? (100-200 words)

Why are you interested in this project? (100-200 words)

What would you like to get out of this project? (100-200 words)

What are your favorite and least favorite subjects in school?

Would you be available and willing to work a few hours a week on this project during the summer and into parts of the school year?

Do you have friends or family members that lived in Laos before 1975 and would be willing to talk about their experiences? If so, who?

What are your interests or hobbies?

***Please have a non-family member (such as a teacher or coach) email a letter of recommendation with contact information to Michael Machala at mmachala@stanford.edu.**

****Please email completed applications to Michael Machala at mmachala@stanford.edu.**