



## 2018 May L. To Excellence Award

### **\$500-\$2,000 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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The Asian Youth Center will honor up to five outstanding AYC participants with academic scholarships of \$500 - \$2,000 per student to offset their expenses at an accredited college, university, or vocational training institution of their choice.

The May L. To Memorial Fund was established in honor of Mrs. May L. To, who passed away in 2010. As former Executive Director of the Asian Youth Center, May's work at AYC, as well as her work in the community as a presenter, consultant, and volunteer, has helped shape the immigrant community that resides in the San Gabriel Valley area of Los Angeles County. The May L. To Excellence Award is proud to continue this legacy by recognizing young individuals dedicated to making a difference.



Mrs. May L. To grew up in Hong Kong as Man-May Lai and completed her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1975. She came to the United States with an Exchange Scholarship in 1977 and earned her Master's Degree in Education from UCLA 1979. May started her career in the U.S. as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher in the Alhambra School District. She married Alex To and became the proud parent of two very successful young men.

After her time at Alhambra School District, May advanced to the Center Coordinator for the International Institute of Los Angeles, a non-profit agency serving new immigrants. In 1982, May became the Assistant Director of Chinatown Service Center. As Assistant Director, May oversaw Refugee Employment, Social Services, Family Planning, Health Education, and youth programs, influencing many. May returned to the International Institute of Los Angeles as the San Gabriel Valley Branch Director in 1984.

The Asian Youth Center was created by the Asian Task Force of the United Way to provide critical services for Asian immigrant children, youth, and families in the San Gabriel Valley. May was invited to lead the Asian Youth Project under the United Way Umbrella in 1989 and when it was renamed the Asian Youth Center in 1990, she became the Executive Director. Today, the agency has grown from a small project with a \$160,000 budget into a large community-based multicultural organization with a budget of 4 million dollars serving more than 4,000 Asian and non-Asian children, youth, and families.

Her commitment to improving access to health services, social services, and youth development opportunities for immigrants, combined with her leadership in these areas, have resulted in effective changes that improved the lives of children, youth, and families over many years.

The May L. To Excellence Award Scholarship has been awarded annually since 2013, and will continue to honor youth dedicated to education and excellence until the fund is depleted.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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Graduating high school seniors or those currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution with a minimum 2.8 grade point average (based on a 4.0 scale). Applicants must be current participants or recent graduates of Asian Youth Center programs. All applicants must be recommended by an AYC Staff person. An Application can be downloaded from [www.asianyouthcenter.org/programs](http://www.asianyouthcenter.org/programs).

- Applications must be received no later than **Friday, February 23rd, 2018 by 5:00pm**
- Winners will be notified by **Friday, March 23rd, 2018**
- Press Conference and Awards Ceremony on **Saturday, April 7th, 2018** to receive award

## **CERTIFICATION & RELEASE**

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Winners will be recognized publicly. All winners, and where appropriate, their parent or guardian, must sign a release granting AYC the right to use their information and their likeness for the purpose of promoting and publicizing the Asian Youth Center.