

Past recipient joined KASF as a scholarship committee member (SRC)



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The relationship with SRC (Southern Regional Chapter), KASF (Korean American Scholarship Foundation) began 11 years ago. I was second year of Ph.D. student in ECE (Electrical and Computer Engineering) Department at Florida Tech, 2006. During that summer, I couldn't make any funding from school and have no funding supports from family any more. While I searched for other sources to keep me the Ph.D. study, I found SRC, KASF website on the internet by chance. However, I honestly didn't expect to receive the scholarship from KASF by applying for an application since I thought challenging application was better than nothing to do.

After a few weeks, I fortunately received the scholarship letter and scholarship check and believed the scholarship had many meaning more than funding at that moment. With this strong motivations, I strived hard to keep Ph.D. study with 7 days school lab life (9am ~ 2am, Mon to Sun) to pursue the faster graduation so I could graduate three and a half years after. That time triggered me studying hard over my whole life even though I was not interested in studying when I was high school student.

KASF's scholarships marked a new era in my whole life eventually. After graduation, I was always thinking KASF's favors as well as the donated time when I have to repay it to KASF then, I was so happy I could repay it to KASF along with company donation matching program in 2017. Also, I was joined the scholarship committee members with Dr. MiKyong Hahm (currently Scholarship Committee Chair)'s recommendation and realized it was so hard process to judge who was the right candidate of scholarship as first time committee service.

After joining scholarship committee members, the thousand emotions crowded on my mind by considering all scholarship candidates in touch environments and I wished they never stop studying for their dreams even though they faced with unexpected problems. For no selected candidates of scholarship in this year, I would advise "you are not loser and you will have next chance if you continue on knocking on what you need or dream". During our whole life, many bad or good experiences will be happened like my life. Based on my previous experiences, I was not selected from university where I applied for then, was very disappointed with rejection and myself, but I was never stopped challenging new opportunity in the future. In particular, for next generation leaders as Korean American, I would strongly advise "your learned talents/abilities should be shared by your community where you lived in United States and they will be more prosperous community/country next generations can dream and let's try to do a crucial asset or a member of community service to serve".

Finally, I would say "Thank you so much for the great contributions/services in Korean American community of United States" to SRC, KASF organization, all contributors, and related staffs as well as personally devote this letter to Dr. KiJo Kim (my Scholarship Donator) and Dr. SamSook Chung (previous President). Moreover, I will continue on supporting KASF's dedications and believe KASF organization is flourishing day by day.