

2017 Student of the Year

Tha Cung (Michael) Ceu is the 2017 CISNT Student of the Year! Michael is a Junior at Lewisville High School (LHS) Main campus and has been involved in the CISNT programs at both LHS and LHS Killough campus since coming to the US as a Chin refugee in 2013. Michael survived a long and arduous journey from Myanmar to Malaysia, and ultimately to Lewisville, overcoming countless challenges along the way. Upon arrival in America, Michael knew very little English. Through patience, hard work, and dedication, he has grown and mastered conversational English at a rate that is almost unbelievable!

Michael is an incredible leader among his peers in the Chin community as well as in her classes. He was elected President of the CISNT Chin Club at LHS Killough in 2016. This group was developed by the CISNT staff to provide Chin refugee students with peer support, helping them to build positive relationships, celebrate their culture, and organize events. As president, Michael recruited over 25 students to attend and lead the group to organize supportive gatherings that encouraged academic accountability and a supportive network of peers.

As an active member of his church community at Bethel Baptist Church, Michael plays music in the worship band and is very consistent with his practices. Michael is generous with his time and money. He donates to support other Chin refugees on their journey to the US and even spent his savings last summer, taking a trip with his church for the sole purpose of supporting a new Chin church in another state. Michael is always willing to lend a helping hand, works hard, and maintains a positive attitude no matter the circumstances.

Quotes:

“I have been truly impacted by my time working with Michael. He has been an example of resiliency, generosity, and the power of positivity. Michael has faced unimaginable obstacles in life. As a refugee from Myanmar he has experienced life-threatening situations, oppression, fear, and the incredible challenge of adjusting to a new life on the other side of the world from where he grew up. He has provided insight into the Chin community and culture, which has strengthened my ability to work with other Chin students. Michael is hard-working and has big goals for his future. He never gives up on himself or on others; and he looks out for his family and peers in a way that shows maturity beyond his years. I will forever be grateful for the honor of working with Michael at CISNT.” – Chelsea Davis, CISNT Site Coordinator at Lewisville High School Main (11th/12th grade campus)

“When I first met Michael, he spoke little English. His last semester at Killough, he was leading group meetings of over 25 students in English as a result of his hard work and dedication to learning. Michael has made a tremendously positive impact on his peers during his time at LHS Killough. He has brought them to tutoring, given them rides to school, shared his food, organized soccer tournament teams, and patiently helped students new to the country adjust to the American school system. He has utilized every opportunity provided by CISNT, attended every CISNT field trip, and completed the CISNT “Bridges to Success” college readiness program.” – Ally Barnett, CISNT Site Coordinator at Lewisville High School Killough (9th/10th grade campus)

“Michael is a true inspiration to us all. His determination, work ethic, and ability to persevere demonstrates a strength of character that we can all aspire to. He is a great example of the students that Communities In Schools of North Texas works with every day to overcome barriers and succeed in school and in life. This award is well deserved.” – Ann Pape, CISNT Chief Executive Officer



**Communities In Schools of North Texas
End of Year Banquet – *Celebrating Successes*
Friday, April 28, 2017, 11:30 AM – 1:00PM
#AllInForKids**

We hope that you will join us on April 28th at Circle R Ranch in Flower Mound for the 2nd annual CISNT End of Year Banquet – *Celebrating Successes*, as we formally honor Michael as our 2017 CISNT Student of the Year! We will also award our 2017 Educator of the Year and 2017 Volunteer of the Year, as well as take the opportunity to show all our wonderful volunteer, donors, partners, and advocates how appreciated they are! This year our theme is “All In For Kids.” Details and RSVP information can be found on our website at <http://cisnt.org/events/event/cisntbanquet> or you can request more info by email at banquet@cisnt.org

This award is still awaiting sponsorship (details below), so email us at banquet@cisnt.org if your business or organization would like to help us award this great young man!

2017 Student of the Year Sponsor

This exclusive sponsorship will provide premier guest status at the CISNT End of Year banquet—*Celebrating Success*, where over 300 CISNT volunteers, partners, donors, and advocates from across Denton and Wise Counties will gather to celebrate the end of another great school year, as well as officially honor our 2017 Educator of the Year, Student of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. Sponsor today and show your colleagues and community that you are #AllInForKids!

- One premier reserved table of 8 with company logo prominently displayed. (*Note: Tickets to this event are free of charge to all CISNT volunteers, donors, advocates, and partners. Your premier table reservation will ensure a reserved space at the front of the venue, as well as an opportunity to advertise and be recognized with your company logo printed on the table. You may choose to fill all 8 seats but are not required to.*)
- Recognition as Student of the Year Sponsor with company logo on social media and on CISNT website
- Publicity shot with CISNT staff at location of sponsor’s choice. (May choose UNT or a CISNT school campus, if desired.)
- Half page advertisement inside program with company logo, to be approved by sponsor. (Must commit by March 31st.)
- Recognition as Student of the Year Sponsor from podium at time of award presentation
- Recognition in multimedia presentation during event
- Company logo in CISNT e-newsletter with distribution to 6,000+ people

Student of the Year Sponsorship is a tax-deductible donation to Communities In Schools of North Texas (CISNT) in the amount of \$3,000 and includes all of the above. All donations from sponsorships will go to CISNT programs, serving over 4,000 students in need across Lewisville, Lake Dallas, Denton, Little Elm, Northwest, and Bridgeport Independent School Districts.