

# community college: the launchpad of my cpa career

By Megan T. Le

I grew up in Vietnam, a developing country where many children wake up early each morning to work in the fields. The equipment used on most farms is not tractors, but oxen; children and adults work all year to afford basic necessities. Receiving a quality education is a luxury and finishing high school is a dream. Yet without an education, many Vietnamese farmers do not have the opportunity to equip themselves to face the rapidly changing economic landscape.

My memories about the harsh life in Vietnam help me to appreciate the education I'm earning. From an early age, I've always been driven to learn as much as I can about the world around me. My family taught me that a quality education was the best way to satisfy my natural curiosity. I chose to start my career in accounting at a two-year college. While some may consider a community college a peripheral option on the path to an education, my experience at Moreno Valley College taught me otherwise. Small class sizes, great professors and the opportunity to take a wide variety of courses before determining my major helped prove that this was a worthy investment in my education.

Although many students at Moreno Valley College have to balance work and education, it did not stop them from interacting with their classmates and forming friendships, study groups and getting involved with campus activities. Managing time commitments of work, school and social activities helped prepare our student body for life after graduation. The diversity of our students helped everyone find a group where they feel they fit in. Small class sizes allowed us to build strong relationships with our professors. With more time to hear from different students, professors were able to determine students' strengths and weaknesses and invest time in helping them grow.

The close-knit community at Moreno Valley College built my network of future colleagues and friends and helped determine my career. I initially selected marketing as my major, until my Accounting 1A course. I realized that I was not only good with numbers, but that I enjoyed accounting. One of my professors introduced me to CalCPA and recommended I attend a local networking event. During a CalCPA student networking event, I listened to CPAs share their personal experiences and passion for accounting. After that, I officially decided to pursue a career in accounting and become a CPA.

Determining my major was only the first step. I became a student of distinction in both accounting and economics, earned an accounting-based scholarship and have created a plan for passing the Uniform CPA Exam and earning my license—and am in the next stage of my journey to becoming a CPA at Cal State Fullerton. My experience at Moreno Valley College taught me a wonderful lesson: no matter where you start your education, the most important thing that matters is how much you're willing to learn. Once I've earned my CPA license I'd like to earn a doctorate in accounting so I can share my experiences with the next generation of curious, accounting students—like myself.

*Megan T. Le is now a student at California State University, Fullerton. You can reach her at [megan.cle@gmail.com](mailto:megan.cle@gmail.com).*



## **Megan Le, At a Glance**

**2009:** Student visa granted by U.S. Consulate in Saigon, Vietnam

**2011-13:** Student of Distinction at Moreno Valley Community College

**2011-Present:** 4.0 GPA

**Role models:** Hillary Clinton and Meg Whitman

**Actress to play her in a movie:** Lucy Liu or Maggie Q

**Ph.D. program ambition:** USC, Stanford, UCLA or UC Irvine

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