

## Khong Meng Her *AmeriCorps Alumni of the Year*

Khong Meng Her came to the United States as a refugee at the age of three. After experiencing racism and classism throughout his early life, he has devoted his time since high school to give back and lift up others. He has served students in the Eau Claire area for nearly a decade. As an undergraduate, he completed two minimum-time AmeriCorps terms serving as a student mentor and as an intern in the Blugold Beginnings program. His commitment to AmeriCorps was further demonstrated through two years of service as a full-time AmeriCorps member from 2015-2017 with the Marshfield Clinic Afterschool program after graduating from UW-Eau Claire.



After completing these two terms of service, Khong Meng became an Associate Student Services Coordinator at UW-Eau Claire. He has been involved in the development and implementation of the Blugold Beginnings AmeriCorps program to engage underserved youth in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Blugold Beginnings goes beyond STEM concepts by striving to educate and inspire students in the Eau Claire area, especially underrepresented, low-income, or first generation students, to believe that a post-secondary education is important, attainable, and available. Khong Meng provides support to 57 AmeriCorps members in the program and promotes AmeriCorps service on campus and in the community. He has developed and implemented training, designed college access curriculum, and engaged other service members in creating a “Saturday School” program for the Blugold AmeriCorps members.



Khong Meng also helped to develop a Hmong Living and Learning Community project at UW-Eau Claire. He created a Domestic Intercultural Immersion program where he took students to sites of Hmong settlements in the United States. He developed an international travel immersion experience to study the history and culture of Hmong people in China and secured a grant to fund the project. Khong Meng was also a co-founder of Hmong Heritage Month on the UW-Eau Claire campus. He has devoted hundreds of hours to the development and implementation of its activities and expanded its scope to a year-round project that allows students to explore the beauty of the Hmong culture throughout the academic year.