

ANNA VIEN NGUYEN

2018 Powell Family Foundation Scholar

Remarks at the 2021 AAWC Annual Meeting

Good morning to everyone and a very special hello to Mrs. Carol Powell Heller’s granddaughter, Olivia! I miss you!

Thank you to the Asian American Women’s Coalition for giving me the opportunity to speak today. My name is Anna Nguyen, and I was a 2018 Powell Family Scholar. I am currently a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania studying Pre-Medicine, French, and Mathematics. I am the student leader of a French volunteering program at Penn that has now also gained recognition by the School District of Philadelphia and I perform as a violinist with the Penn Symphony Orchestra. In 2018, I helped then-city Councilman-at-large Al Taubenberger pass a law that banned smoking at all SEPTA stations. I am a 2016 Germination Project Fellow, a leadership fellowship in Philadelphia.



During the pandemic, I have been leading an initiative at Penn that offers much-needed support to local nonprofit organizations in the city. In addition, I volunteer with the Castleman Disease Collaborative Network at Penn Medicine, a team that is researching the cure to a rare autoimmune disease called Castleman Disease. Since the coronavirus pandemic, they have taken on the task of identifying possible treatments for COVID-19.



I am a very fortunate young lady. First, both of my parents are immigrants from Vietnam who have worked very hard and struggled with language to raise me, and my two siblings, in a life with three different cultures. However, three years ago, my parents were worried about paying for me to go to college. Then, I hit the lottery of gaining another set of parents in

America; they are the Powell Family. They are angels, they relieved a burden off my parents. They have been very gracious and generous to support me on my educational journey towards my gratifying future. Without the support of the Powell Family, I

would not be able to achieve all that I have thus far and see the light that illuminates my future.

I have one more year at Penn before I graduate. During these three years, I am truly appreciative of the Asian American Women's Coalition for linking me with the Powell Family, my true second family. They helped not only me, but also my family and the entire surrounding community. My parents can now worry about me less and devote their time to my two younger siblings, who will be going to college in the coming years. Due to the philanthropic spirit of more than one generation of the Powell Family, they gave me a very valuable treasure that taught me to always give back and help those in need as much as I can. I have no words for how indebted I am, but I will promise, as I can, to embody their kindness and always pay it forward. The glorious contribution of the AAWC and the Powell Family will stand the test of time and never be forgotten from generation to generation. Thank you to everyone and I hope everyone stays safe and is successful.