

# **HAPA Foundation awarded \$50,000 Paul Purcell ‘Kids Win!’ annual Baird education grant**

MILWAUKEE – The HAPA Foundation is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$50,000 Paul Purcell “Kids Win!” Annual Baird Education Grant from the Baird Foundation, which marks the first time HAPA has received this prestigious national recognition.

The grant will support HAPA’s Dual Enrollment Program, helping expand college access and opportunities for scholars as they earn college credits and prepare for future academic and career success.

The Paul Purcell “Kids Win!” Annual Baird Education Grant was established in 2020 as a meaningful and lasting tribute to former Baird Chairman and CEO Paul E. Purcell, who was deeply committed to ensuring all young people — regardless of background or circumstance — have access to a quality education. Purcell often asked a simple but powerful question when evaluating educational efforts: “Do the kids win?”

To honor that legacy, Baird annually awards grants to nonprofit educational organizations serving students across the United States. Grant recipients are nominated and sponsored by Baird associates who are actively engaged with the organizations and have direct insight into their impact. Priority is given to organizations serving diverse populations, first-generation students, and students with limited financial means.

This year, the program received 131 applications nationwide, with only 38 organizations across 22 states selected for funding. A total of \$2 million in grants was awarded through the 2026 program.

“We are incredibly honored to receive this investment in our scholars and mission,” said Dr. Chris Her-Xiong, founder and CEO of Hmong American Peace Academy, or HAPA. “This support strengthens our ability to expand opportunities for HAPA scholars through dual enrollment and reinforces the importance of creating pathways to college and future success.”

The Paul Purcell “Kids Win!” Annual Baird Education Grant is funded by Baird, the Baird Foundation, and Baird associates.

HAPA extends its sincere gratitude to the Baird Foundation and to all supporters, partners, educators, and families who continue to help create transformative opportunities for HAPA scholars.

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