



Iok Teng (Denise) Kuok

[Associate of Science](#)

“I want to do research in genetics.” scholarship recipient

Denise Kuok came to the United States from Macao, China to earn her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and chose to start at Edmonds CC. Kuok became interested in biochemistry while in high school in China. When a teacher asked her class to think about questions such as, “Why are we hungry?” Kuok truly wanted to find the answers. Finding out why and how human bodies work is important to her, in part, because of her close relationship with her grandmother, who suffers from diabetes and other illnesses. Kuok hopes her studies can help lead to better medicines and cures. She came to the United States to earn her bachelor’s degree in biochemistry and chose Edmonds Community College, a smaller school in “quiet and peaceful” Washington State, as a good place to study. She loves working with the college’s laboratory equipment and can see herself with a career as a medical researcher in genetics. It helps that many of the college’s math and science instructors are female, too. “It makes me feel like I can do it, to see them as an example,” she said. Kuok is a member of the college’s honor society, Phi Theta Kappa, and she’s received two scholarships through the Edmonds Community College Foundation: the Louise Leone Scholarship for women studying lab sciences and the Dr. Eugene Imamura Endowed Scholarship for medical students. In turn, Kuok helps other students at Edmonds CC by tutoring math and chemistry in the Learning Support Center.