



## **Who Am I: Charting Ambitions, The Journey of Sriura Loylom Weirich, Ph.D., SHRM-CP**

Greetings! My name is Sriura Loylom Weirich, Ph.D., SHRM-CP. I was born in a rural village of Thailand to a Chinese born Thai (CBT) mother, and a native Thai father. On leave from my teaching position with the Thai Government, I first came to the United States as a J-1 student to study, first at the University of Missouri, Columbia. I graduated with a master's degree in teaching. Then, I went to the

University of New Mexico in Albuquerque to obtain a doctorate degree, also in teaching.

As the first generation with a humble background, to obtain a college degree, I have set a great example to my younger siblings and to Thai and/or Asian students in general.

The take home point is that if you have an ambition and are determined to make it work, then success is likely to follow. The belief that hard-working pays dividends has instilled in me while growing up in an Asian household.

As an Asian student, I was searching for people who look like me, not a lot that I found. As a “poor graduate” student, I am desperately searching for scholarships. Despite the word, “minorities” in the title, Asians were not identified as a minority for that purpose. I hope that by being present at Pima College, I can inspire and motivate individuals to continue their education and write their own success stories.

I am a firm believer in opportunities and affordability. Community colleges exist among communities and have provided educational opportunities to countless people who otherwise might not be able to afford. I have worked and taught in a few community colleges and have witnessed the benefits of community colleges such as cost-effective, smaller class size, low ratios of students/faculty, to name a few. I have been working for Pima Community College at the Faculty Qualifications; Hiring for over 15 years. I take pride in my contributions to the College in preparing qualified faculty for the staffing needs of the College.