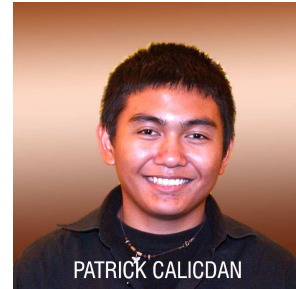


# PESO ANNOUNCES ITS UIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES FOR YEAR 2009

By: Tito Castro and Frank Padilla

The Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization (PESO) entered into an agreement to fund a scholarship with the University of Illinois at Chicago to be granted to deserving minority students enrolled in its College of Engineering. The endowment called PESO Scholarship Fund, marks 2009 as the first year that this will be awarded. Mr. Arnaud C. Buttin, Director of the UIC Foundation announced that the scholarship is being awarded to two minority freshmen pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering at the UIC; Fernand Lopez who graduated from Grant Community High School in Fox Lake and Patrick Calicdan who graduated from Lockport Township High School. Both have perfect scores in their science part of the ACT and are of Filipino heritage. (PESO has a separate scholarship program already in place but which authorizes the current PESO president to award to 2 outstanding Filipino graduates, one locally and another from the Philippines).



The PESO Scholarship Fund program was the brainchild of Engr. Robert Kiamco, a lifetime member and ardent supporter of PESO and past president of the Midwest Chapter of the Cebu Institute of Technology Alumni Association, CITAA-Midwest. Engr. Kiamco, a retired vice-president of Rockwell International and his wife Dr. Benita Kiamco, are also active in medical missions to the Philippines since his retirement. CITAA-Midwest was the linchpin to the establishment of this scholarship at UIC by donating a substantial amount of money to PESO, while PESO and other individuals provided the balance to fulfill the UIC endowment requirements. During the term and with the hard work of then PESO president Tito Castro the PESO Executive Board approved by majority vote this monumental PESO UIC Scholarship resolution on June 10, 2007 and was concurred with unanimously by the Council of the Past Presidents on June 24, 2007. Other major contributors are Mrs. Christine Mindo Reyes, daughter of past Peso president Gem Mindo and Cora Mindo, Ms. Marjorie Galban, senior consultant at IBM and Peso past president Constante Tagamolila. CITAA-Midwest also graciously granted PESO sole naming rights for this scholarship. Thus this scholarship is listed by the UIC Foundation as the PESO Scholarship Fund.



We all know that endowments are simple but powerful ideas and self-renewing resources permitting their charitable intent to be fulfilled for generations to come. These financial gifts are preserved for all time by holding them in perpetuity, investing the principal and using only the income from the investments for the purpose specified by the donor. Long after we have completed our journey as earthly pilgrims, these endowments continue to be here and be our legacy forever.

The PESO Scholarship Fund can be made a model for Phil-Am organizations in Chicago and throughout the United States who would like to put up their own scholarship funds at the universities of their own choosing. PESO is willing to share its experience in putting up this program and work with other organizations in starting their own endowment programs at the UIC Foundation. We must constantly remind ourselves we have adopted the USA as our second motherland. In return this country has embraced us and provided us with opportunities guaranteeing success in our careers, our lives, and our families. It is not only proper but imperative for us as responsible citizens to return this favor. Scholarship grant is just one way of doing it.

PESO rallies the Filipino community to contribute to this program. You may contribute directly to the University of Illinois Foundation at their website, <https://www.uif.uillinois.edu/Gifts/StartGiving.asp>. In the "designation" field, select "other" then type "Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization (PESO) Endowment." On the next page you may also add a note "add to the endowment." This will assure that your donation is used to grow the endowment instead of being used for next year's scholarship grant. You may prefer to send a check but please specify that your contribution is to be earmarked for the PESO

Scholarship Fund. Make your checks payable to University of Illinois Foundation, account number 771312 (PESO Account) and copy us your letter for our information. Mail your checks to: Mr. Arnaud C. Buttin, Director of Advancement, College of Engineering (MC 159), University of Illinois at Chicago, Room 819, Science and Engineering Offices, 851 South Morgan Street, Chicago, IL 60607-7043. Your contribution is tax deductible. For further information please call current PESO president Wilbur Ligutam at 773-463-1055 or visit the PESO website at <http://www.pesoworld.com>.

Even a yearly contribution of \$50 will go long way if many of us will participate. With the cost of college education rising fast, we need to carry our share to help our next generation of young Americans attain their dreams and keep our country competitive.