



*SASE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE*  
**DIANE NGUYEN**

<b>YEAR:</b>	JUNIOR
<b>MAJOR:</b>	MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
<b>BOARD POSITION:</b>	VICE PRESIDENT
<b>RUNNING MATE:</b>	CHAE LEE

### **INTRODUCTION**

Hello! I'm Diane Nguyen and I'm a junior majoring in mechanical engineering. I'm from Brooklyn Park MN and am a big fan of new experiences whether it be traveling to a new place or trying something for the first time. I enjoy painting, listening to good music and pouring my time into video games. When life gets a bit too overwhelming with everything is a huge blur, it's nice to come back to a community of close friends who keep you grounded. I am very appreciative of SASE for bringing some of those people into my life, and I am passionate about being able to help others build that community. If you need a friend to talk to or just want some company to grab boba with, don't hesitate to contact me!

### **WHY SASE LEADERSHIP?**

I want to run again for leadership because I enjoy meeting new people, working with them, and being a positive influence. Before I started college, I was very shy and soft-spoken. I learned to break out of my shell and let my voice be heard; it is a very good and empowering feeling. I want to be able to connect with and help my fellow/future board members succeed in their respective leadership positions, that they can also feel empowered as their voices are also heard. I believe that a crucial part of being a vice president



includes forming relationships with your executive team as well as the broad population of people you are representing to ensure productive problem-solving. This is something I enjoy doing and consider one of my strengths, so I hope that this position can teach me not only more about myself but how to be a better and more efficient leader.

### **WHAT DOES SASE MEAN TO YOU?**

SASE is an important part of both my college experience and my identity. Arriving at the U as a freshman in a population where there weren't many students who looked like me or could connect to my past experiences very well, I felt a little lost. I found it hard to feel accepted in a community in such a large school until I discovered SASE. Not only does SASE empower me professionally—I had never felt as prepared to kickstart my career—but it also empowers me culturally. When I'm involved in SASE, I find myself surrounded by many like-minded, kind, and motivating people who are more than willing to help in whatever way they can in terms of professionalism, identity, and more. A lot of people I've met through SASE I know will be my lifelong friends. Most importantly, I see myself represented in SASE. It is easy to relate to other members' experiences and lifestyles; SASE makes such a large university feel like a smaller, familiar, and accepting community.

### **WHAT/WHERE DO YOU WANT SASE TO BE BY THE END OF YOUR TERM?**

Last year, Chae and I had goals of expanding SASE's three branches and programs past their boundaries. With the pandemic, we were faced with many setbacks, but in the end, we were able to maneuver through the challenges as SASE continued to be an extremely successful student organization. We were able to increase Pan-Asian representation through collaborations with other student groups, increase our corporate sponsors, and be more present in the Hmong College Prep Academy (HCPA) for SASE Junior. Although the 2020-2021 online school year was very successful for SASE UMN, I believe that we can uplift our cultural pillar that previously



was lacking the human connection we all miss. Chae and I will continue to maintain the countless professional corporate connections we made this year while we work hard to rebuild SASE's cultural pillar with new and safe in-person events centered around culture and food. We also hope to be able to do things in person with HCPA and help the high schoolers with going to college and engaging in STEM. It has been a crazy year, and we hope to return to normal soon. We will focus on rebuilding our community in our physical space at the U of M, and build connections with our team and general members. I see SASE thriving as a multifaceted organization where everybody feels safe, welcome, and connected.

