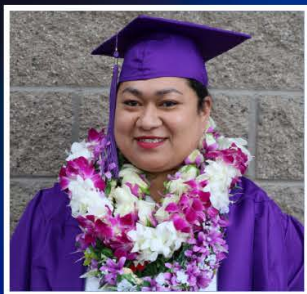


## STUDENT OF THE MONTH



# ANA MOUNGA

*"I am so grateful to MVLA Adult School and its teachers for helping me work towards my goals"*

Ana's journey began in a small fishing village on the island of Tonga. Her father, a fisherman, and her mother, a housewife, did not finish school, but they instilled in their six children the importance of education. She remembers her parents telling her, "You have to do better. You have to find opportunities." It was this foundation that led Ana to pursue her education in digital imaging technology in Fiji, where she attended university. While going to school, Ana would work summers in Australia to help pay for her classes. After finishing school, she began work, but she found limited opportunities available to her.

In 2019, she left her family to go on vacation to the United States, but while here, she made the difficult decision to seek asylum and pursue the possibility of a better life. Now on her own in a new country, Ana began working at a care facility in Fremont, but she knew she wanted more.

In 2022, while searching online, she found MVLA Adult School's website and thought that it looked like a school where she could feel comfortable. Although Ana had a degree from Fiji, she needed to get a foothold in the American educational system, so she could improve her skills and pursue her goal of becoming a nurse. Ana enrolled in the morning GED class at MVLA Adult School in October of that year with the goal of earning her H.S.E. Certificate and continuing her education in college. After passing her official GED Science and Mathematical Reasoning exams, she enrolled in the Certified Nursing Assistant program at MVLA Adult School, so she could begin her career path in the medical field. As a result of graduating from the C.N.A. program, Ana was able to find positions at a rehabilitation facility and a senior care home in the Mountain View area. She also returned to the GED classroom to complete her high school equivalency while working these two jobs.

Ana passed the final GED exam on December 19th of 2023 and earned her H.S.E. certificate. Now, Ana is working to complete her prerequisites at Mission College, so she can apply to a nursing program with the eventual goal of becoming a Registered Nurse. Although Ana has encountered many challenges, and although it has been difficult leaving all of her family, she is determined to follow her dreams. She also wants, "to be an example for other young people with similar stories who are trying to find better opportunities and a better life."