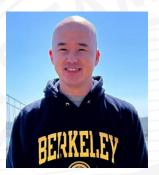John Lam is a first-generation Chinese-American, born and raised in Sacramento, California. At the age of 17, he was sentenced to serve 26 years-to-life. After 14 years of incarceration, his life sentence was commuted by Governor Brown. In 2019, after 15 years of imprisonment, he was paroled to Los Angeles, CA.

He is currently an undergraduate at UC Berkeley majoring in Political Science and attributes his success in getting into Cal to the college of Mt. Tamalpais, which taught him critical thinking skills, reading, and writing - importantly, instilling a sense of belief he is good enough.

He currently works as a Community Engagement Fellow at the Possibility Lab at the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley conducting research and assisting voter registration at the Santa Rita county jail.

As a person who is formerly incarcerated, he is passionate about utilizing technology and policy to address criminal justice reform.

He understands the importance of having people with carceral experiences creating apps and offering insight at the intersection of policy and technology around housing, employment, education, and access to healthcare.

He volunteers with nonprofits from the Bay Area and Southern California to assist formerly incarcerated people when reintegrating back into society. Upon completing his degree, he plans on pursuing a Master in Public Policy.

Being in this privileged space of higher education as a returning citizen he deeply appreciates the support of Mt. Tamalpais's generous scholarship to pay for his education.

Without this, John would've had to work multiple jobs to pay for school and incur student loans that would severely hamper his economic well-being for years after graduation. incarcerated students is thriving at San Quentin. Students are receiving unprecedented access to learning, technology, and opportunity.

I hope this ambitious work will inspire you to support Mount Tamalpais College with a gift today.