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Marquette University '17

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U of Illinois-Chicago '18

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Miss Sampaguita USA 2016
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STEP UP

THE SAMPAGUITA GROUP

WE MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF COLLEGE WOMEN
sampaguitagroup.org

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information:

info@sampaguitagroup.org

phone: 312.620.2270

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT TAKES TOP AWARD IN 2018 SAMPAGUITA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

July 28, 2018 — NORTHBROOK, IL

Jessica Lomibao, a graduate student pursuing a Master of Education degree at Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois, won the top \$2,000 scholarship prize in the 4th Annual 2018 Sampaguita Scholarship Competition. Lomibao was one of five Filipino American student finalists who competed for several partial college scholarships on Saturday, July 28, 2019 at the Northbrook Hilton in Northbrook, Illinois. Lomibao was nominated by the Interservice Christian Fellowship from Marquette University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in 2017.

The other finalists included Safia Maay Amerin (\$500 scholarship), a political science major at Northeastern University nominated by The Philippine Art Foundation; Brienne Lagtapon (\$300 scholarship), a biomedical sciences major at Marquette University nominated by the Bayanihan Student Organization; Alyssa Mae Doruelo (\$250 scholarship), a nursing major at Marquette University nominated by the Bayanihan Student Organization; and Gina Gualberto (\$200 scholarship), a nursing major at the University of Missouri-Columbia nominated by the Asian American Association.

The women competed by submitting a 300-word written essay (50% of score) on the topic of 'Educational Downward Mobility' judged by three journalists, and by verbal presentation of their essays (50% of score) judged by three community leaders at The Sampaguita Ball.

This year's Valedictorian Level (\$1,000) scholarship sponsors included Jose D. Flores, Jr. of Jay-Dee Corporation, and Lydia Tayco.

The Sampaguita Group is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Illinois. Our mission is to reverse *Educational Downward Mobility* affecting second-generation Filipino Americans. Census data shows that US-born Filipino Americans lag behind their immigrant counterparts in completing college. Because of possible cultural biases, women can be more adversely affected by this trend. Our mission is to increase public awareness about *Educational Downward Mobility* through programs and events, and award partial scholarships to Filipino American women matriculated in colleges and universities in the United States.

Learn more about *Educational Downward Mobility*, from the Harvard Asian American Policy Review, download a white paper by sociologist Tracy Lachica Buenavista, Department of Asian American Studies at California State University, Northridge, in the references section of our website: <http://sampaguitagroup.org/references/>

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