

Tiana Pham

It has been about 7 years since I last took a black belt test and earned my first degree black belt. I thought I learned a lot about myself starting from my mom wanting me to join ASKA at the age of 7 to learning to love martial arts around the age of 12 to getting injured during my first black belt test at the age of 15 to earning my first degree black belt a year later at the age of 16. I couldn't have imagined how much more I've grown and learned between earning my first degree black belt to earning my second degree black belt at the age of 23. In these last 7 years, I've become a certified instructor, standing in front of classes and teaching students what I've learned while continuing to learn myself. When I first started with ASKA, I was timid and found everything daunting. Now I've become more comfortable in my ability to lead and more confident in my physical and mental capabilities. It brings me a lot of joy and fulfillment to see how far I've come and to know that while I will always have something to learn, I've also stepped into a position to give back to the organization that has shaped who I am as a person. 7-year-old me and even 16-year-old me would never have imagined being in the position I am today, and I hope I'll be able to help future students grow the way I did as I continue my journey with ASKA.