Being person-centered is a way of life for Kong Vue, a Program Associate at the PAI Commerce program for the past three years. From the start of his day until the last person leaves, Kong will find a way to connect with everyone to assure their time at PAI is productive and positive. He is usually the first person individuals see as they arrive and his big smile and happy welcome effectively gets the day started on a great note!

Kong’s attentive care for the individuals served reaches across all areas at PAI. He is a job coach that supports workers at Dynamic Air and Park Tools, encouraging all members of the crew to do their personal best and to grow their talents. The Dynamic Air supervisor notes: “Kong is someone we really enjoy having at Dynamic Air. He has a pleasant personality that resonates well with his clients and our employees. I have noticed personally his compassion and dedication to his clients. The clients respond so well to that and you can see it in how involved, productive, and happy they are. I am a parent with a child with special need so it’s really nice to know that dedicated people like Kong are out there working selflessly to better our community. So thank you for your service.”

At the PAI sites, Kong seeks creative ways to make things possible for individuals, such as designing adaptations and offering ideas that will further someone’s independence, sense of accomplishment and self-confidence. He has a strong dedication to excellence in all the tasks he undertakes on behalf of the individuals, whether it is helping someone with their coat or teaching someone a new skill at their job. Kong takes the initiative and can be counted on to do what needs to be done without needing to be asked to do so. Within the busy flow of each day, this adds a degree of calm and steadiness to the day for everyone. For Kong, the focus is always on doing whatever he can, wherever he is, to improve the life experiences of the individuals and to make sure they know they have a friend and supporter in him!

Kong has also been cross-trained to work at other PAI sites. He has demonstrated a flexibility to go to different sites and has worked as hard at those places as he does at Commerce. His goal is to provide excellent care and quality programming to each participant while they are present and utilize any non-program time to prepare for supporting an inclusive environment for the following day.

If excellence can be embodied in an individual’s performance and character at work it is rarely seen to the same degree as it is in Kong*.* His actions and leadership are organic and unassuming, coming from a place of deep integrity and personal values. PAI is a better place because Kong is on our team and we proudly nominate him for the MOHR DSP Award!