

**PROFILE OF RECIPIENTS OF LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT
/TRAINEE AWARD 2016**

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2016

Name : Lewis Lee Zhiyuan
Course : *Nitec* in Electronics (Microelectronics)
Company : GlobalFoundries

Techie Trainee

For updates on the latest model of televisions, tablets, and computer hardware parts in the market, 19-year-old Lewis Lee Zhiyuan is the person to go to for advice. Lewis keeps a close tab on cutting-edge, and up and coming technology as a hobby. Among his friends, he is known as a ‘techie’, meaning a person who is expert in or enthusiastic about technology, especially computing.

Fuelled by this passion in technology, Lewis decided to pursue an education specialising in Electronics. Instead of choosing the standard route of a full-time *Nitec* programme, he opted for the Traineeship Programme, which offered him the best of both worlds. He wanted to acquire knowledge in this field, yet at the same time, experience working life. Hence, Lewis became a trainee with GlobalFoundries, a renowned semiconductor foundry, from July 2014 to December 2015. He worked three or four days a week at the company and came to ITE Colleges on the remaining days. This flexible arrangement allowed him to build up his theoretical foundation and apply the concepts he learned almost immediately at work.

As compared to his peers, Lewis has a headstart in the industry. He said, “I went through on-the-job training and worked on actual machines. I also learned from several qualified and experienced seniors in the field.” His job required him to work from 9 am to 9 pm for the day shift in one month, and rotate to the 9 pm to 9 am night shift for the next month. Undaunted by the long hours, the resilient lad still gave his best and ensured that he delivered quality work within the given timeline.

Once, Lewis and his colleague noticed that two wafers were broken during a mechanical process when nobody noticed the mistake. They quickly halted the machine and alerted the engineer to check for faults. Thanks to their discovery, the other wafers in the pod were not damaged. “It turned out that half a wafer was stuck in the machine. It is a must to perform checks even if it is a mundane task to do,” he said.

Lewis will hit the books again in April, when he begins his new chapter of life in Nanyang Polytechnic that will lead to a Diploma in Electronics, Computer & Communications. Upon graduation, he hopes to work in an Electronics-related company that promotes innovation and creates its own products.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Bryan Tan Guang Jun
Course : *Higher Nitec* in Chemical Technology
College : ITE College East

It's All in the Attitude

The room will light up when Bryan Tan Guang Jun enters. The positive vibes he radiates is hard to ignore, confessed people who have worked with him in the past. The 19-year-old is wise beyond his age, too. "Life has taught me well," Bryan feels.

Growing up after his parents' divorce presented its own set of challenges. But, as the eldest child, Bryan embraced the changes head-on and kept his eyes trained on the little blessings in life. Although he was qualified for the Direct Polytechnic Admission (DPA) exercise based on his excellent GCE Normal Level results, he chose to sign up for a course that he was passionate about at ITE.

The *Higher Nitec* in Chemical Engineering student claims that his biggest challenge is managing time. The President of the Student Council at ITE College East, Bryan is right to say that. After all he juggles a vibrant campus life with a flawless academic record! The perfect Grade Point Average 4.0 scorer spent most of his time in school managing activities spearheaded by the Student Council. Every two weeks, he would turn up at Unity Secondary School, his former school, to coach his juniors in the Boy's Brigade Club. Every fortnight, he would attend meetings at the Yew Tee Community Centre, Youth Executive Committee, as a grassroots volunteer. And the list goes on. What is more amazing is that he found time to do all this while taking on a part-time job to supplement his mother's income.

"I am fortunate to get the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship that paid for my *Higher Nitec* education. That eased my mother's financial burden to an extent. But she needs more support and I'm glad to help," he explained earnestly. And this has to be Bryan's strongest quality - his passion to help family, peers and the community at large. Whether it's building a Plant Nursery at the College of Agriculture & Technology, Thailand, or organising a fund raising event for his GRC residents, Bryan is always ready to do his part and more. Notably, he is the proud winner of ITE College East Service Star Award 2015 (Platinum), and the Most Outstanding Intern Award.

Bryan will be pursuing a Diploma in Chemical Technology at Singapore Polytechnic this year. When asked to share his wish for the future, he shared, "I want people not to remember me by my achievements alone, for such are fleeting moments. But, I want people to remember me for the meaningful memories created that will last a life time, and for the difference I may have brought into their lives." Spoken like a true Model Student.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Chua Kheng Teen Aloysius
Course : *Higher Nitec* in Process Plant Design
College : ITE College Central

Engineering a Learning Attitude

When Chua Kheng Teen Aloysius embarked on his *Higher Nitec* in Process Plant Design course in 2014, he had to do Mathematics after a four-year hiatus. The adjustment was difficult but he persevered with the support of his Lecturers, who arranged for extra lessons to help weaker students.

Today, Aloysius is a peer tutor for the PolyMaths Club, which is a club that welcomes ITE students to learn advanced Engineering Mathematics that is taught at polytechnics. The perfect 4.0 Grade Point Average holder said, "There are about 20 peer tutors who volunteer our time to help students before they go to polytechnic themselves. Many do struggle and we want them to succeed." The club runs five sessions every semester after school hours and students from all ITE Colleges can join for free. During holidays, PolyMaths conducts three-day workshops that run for the entire day.

This penchant to teach others stems from Aloysius' personal journey in ITE, where he had benefited from mentors and seniors. As President of the Care & Repair Club, Aloysius led about 50 members to contribute to the community through helping the elderly and less fortunate. Skills-related help was also rendered, with the Care & Repair Club involved in ITE's Home Improvement Project, where students help elderly and low-income residents install safety equipment in their flats. Naturally, many of these interactions were meaningful conversations that Aloysius found to be enlightening. He said, "Many of them offered us food and drinks despite their low-income situation. Their generosity was humbling for all of us."

Besides the elderly, Aloysius had the opportunity to learn from Fulbright Scholars under the US Embassy Mentoring Programme. Through his assigned mentor, Aloysius was inspired to be positive in the face of failures. He also had a chance to visit his mentor's workplace – the Singapore Press Holdings – to learn how the industry works.

Currently a student in Singapore Polytechnic's Diploma in Chemical Engineering programme, the 2016 Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award achiever is thinking about how he can use his skills to explore alternative energy sources, like biofuels. His inspiration comes from an ITE-sponsored student trip to Denmark, where he learned how the country uses power that is generated from sustainable sources, like wind energy. He said, "Ideas are everywhere. We just have to be open to learn from others and try to find the best solutions, without fear of failing."

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Hay Choon Leong
Course : *Higher Nitec* in Accounting
College : ITE College Central

Rice-ing to the Occasion

When he was in primary school, Hay Choon Leong preferred talking to his classmates to studying. “My studies weren’t very good, but I was very entrepreneurial – I sold sweets in school and charged 10 cents to 20 cents more!” said Choon Leong.

His cavalier attitude towards his studies continued in secondary school until his teacher nominated him to be part of the Student Council. “I was able to mix with students from the Express and Normal streams in Student Council. And it was there, that I realised everyone was working very hard except me,” said Choon Leong. From then on, Choon Leong was determined to work hard.

After graduating from secondary school, Choon Leong enrolled at ITE and took up a *Nitec* in Service Skills (Office). He ploughed on, earned the Top Student Award in 2013, and proceeded to pursue a *Higher Nitec* in Accounting. The 20-year-old did equally well, achieving a 3.675 Grade Point Average and excelling both as a leader and in his Co-Curricular Activities.

Choon Leong was awarded the prestigious Halogen Foundation National Young Leader award in December 2015. He was also chosen to take part in the 42nd Ship for South East Asian and Japanese Youth Programme, where he got to visit five Asian countries, for cultural exchange and to discuss issues with youths around the region. As President of the Library Club, Choon Leong was instrumental in improving recruitment from fewer than 20 members to over 100. He even initiated several programmes to ensure active membership.

On top of his school commitments, Choon Leong also took on a part-time job selling rice dumplings at a market. “I don’t come from a very well-to-do family and my dad is the sole breadwinner. So on weekends, I sell rice dumplings to earn some income for myself. I don’t want to give my parents more burden, and also, my five-year-old brother needs their support more, since he is unable to earn extra income for himself,” explained Choon Leong.

A firm believer in working hard, Choon Leong certainly lives up to his beliefs, “Everyone can be a success. No one is stupid; just lazy. So overcome laziness and make use of your strengths. Every opportunity I get is a trust that someone had given to me. So I should always do my best and never give up.”

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Jeslina Angel d/o Arudas
Course : *Higher Nitec* in Business Services
College : ITE College East

Catch the Rainbow After Every Storm

Jeslina hails from a big family of seven. She loves her family and life was comfortable growing up until her parents ran into financial trouble. Selling off their five-room HDB flat, they moved in with a relative. But the arrangement placed a great strain on everyone. Soon, her siblings left home, leaving her alone with her ageing parents. "We have since moved into a small rental flat. I cannot ask for more. It feels good to have a place that I can call home," Jeslina said. Her positive outlook is hard to miss.

"Wise people say your life is in your hands. Make use of every opportunity to build a better future. Do not give yourself a reason to regret at the end of the road. This is my motto in life too," she added in an upbeat voice. True to her spirit, despite the odds against her, Jeslina completed her 'N' level examination and enrolled at ITE College East to pursue a *Nitec* in Business Services. Her excellent and consistent academic performance saw her making to the ITE Director's List Award for three consecutive semesters. She was also inaugurated into the ACE Club, a club for student leaders.

But the go-getter is also a team player. Appointed as her class' peer mentor, Jeslina was the go-to girl for her peers who needed special coaching or moral support. She also gave her time generously towards community service. For example, she led a team of 12 students to help at the Soup Kitchen, an organisation that delivers free food to needy and low income families. She demonstrated exemplary leadership skills in leading the team of student volunteers to wash up the kitchen and prepare the ingredients for the subsequent day's cooking. She also led a team of students on a Youth Expedition Programme in Kandal Province, Cambodia. The team assisted to refurbish a local primary school as well as teach the children basic English. She managed to do this and more while holding a part-time job to support her family.

The aspiring entrepreneur also declared her love for the world of infinite possibilities. Jeslina dreams to start her own business in the future, preferably to provide a service or innovate a product as a form of social service, as her way of giving back to society. And fortunately, she got a taste of this through her participation in the #startable programme; an entrepreneurship programme for ITE students. "NTU Startable Competition 2015 was a great experience for me. My team developed a trial product that clinched the grant. We were one of the top three winners in the competition," she shared.

Jeslina will be progressing on to *Higher Nitec* in Human Resource and Administration at the same College. Jeslina is a model student because, more than anything, she is ready to catch the rainbow after every storm. And that is certainly a spirit we aspire to possess.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Seah Mei Yan Kristin
Course : *Nitec* in Social Media & Web Development
College : ITE College West

Paying IT Forward

Seah Mei Yan Kristin Mei Yan's re-entry into ITE was one of the best decisions she has made. Taking up the *Nitec* in Social Media & Web Development course, after a three-year break from studying, gave her a new lease of life. From being shy and unmotivated, she blossomed into a confident and tenacious go-getter, with a whole list of achievements and awards to her name. Though she had a colourful college life, she performed well in her course and graduated with a near-perfect Grade Point Average. Kristin is currently a first-year student in Singapore Polytechnic, pursuing a Diploma in Info-Communications Security Management.

Kristin is grateful to ITE for giving her a second chance. The first time she joined ITE, she stopped her Electronics studies after a while. However, the working world during her three-year hiatus from studies was a wake-up call. She realised that she needed skills to progress further in her career. With a better attitude and greater maturity, she returned to ITE with the hope of improving her future.

It was then she discovered her innate leadership qualities and displayed it as the President of the ACE Club, Student Leader in the Multimedia Club and member of the Swimming Club. Despite a packed schedule, she found time to give back to the community as a Student Leader in the Eco Campus Committee and member of the Youth Corp Singapore. She also participated in a community service trip to Cambodia to refurbish a secondary school and provide donations to children in an orphanage. Being an environmentalist, she took part in eco-projects, including being a speaker at an Eco Initiative to share on the harms of mercury poisoning.

She sharpened her technical skills by competing with other talents in her trade area. Kristin shared that her most valuable experience was her participation at the Adobe Certified Associate World Championship. Being crowned the national champion, Kristin took her first long-haul flight to the United States to compete with the best at an international stage. "The competition motivated me to do better, and made me realise that I can achieve what I want, if I put my heart and mind to it," she said.

She feels indebted to ITE for unlocking her potential. "If not for ITE, I would not have become the person that I am," she shared. In fact, she hopes to pay it forward by becoming a ITE lecturer. She wants to help students paint a better future for themselves, just like what her lecturers did for her.

With her sheer determination, she is on her way to achieving her dream!

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Lim Wei Jie
Course : *Nitec* in Business Services
College : ITE College Central

A Worthwhile Journey

One would not have guessed that the President of ITE College Central's Student Council, Lim Wei Jie, spent six years in secondary school. Having repeated his Secondary 2 year, Wei Jie had to take a longer route than most.

After his 'O' levels examinations, Wei Jie was offered two *Higher Nitec* courses at ITE. Instead, he decided to enrol in a *Nitec* course of his interest – Business Services. His determination to start afresh and prove his mettle would make all the difference.

With his older brother as a role model, he was certain that ITE was a place he could succeed at. He said, "My older brother was from ITE and he did very well. He was the Secretary of the Student Council and went on to a polytechnic. I know ITE is a good place and I will be able to do well if I set my mind to it. I want to study something that is close to my interest."

His positive attitude and resolve led him to take up various leadership positions. After a year in the Student Council, he rose to become the President. Wei Jie also participated in the six-month long United States Embassy Alumni Mentoring Programme. Under this Programme, a talk by Bloomberg left a deep impression on him. At this talk on reaching career goals, Wei Jie mapped out his plan to achieve his childhood dream of becoming a police officer.

Although Wei Jie was afraid of public speaking, he bravely took up challenges to be the emcee and student facilitator for three National Education Dialogue sessions with Members of Parliament and ministers. He also represented Singapore as a student ambassador and went on a culture exchange trip to Japan.

Wei Jie gave back to the less fortunate too. He was part of a team that delivered essential items to underprivileged families in Ang Mo Kio. His dedication earned him the ITE Service Star Award (Diamond).

When asked for advice to others who may have to take a longer route like him, Wei Jie said, "Never give up on your dreams. The journey may be tough, but it is worth it."

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Muhammad Hamdan Bin Nazarudin
Course : *Nitec* in Nursing
College : ITE College East

The Heart of Healthcare

“Genuine, skillful and tough!” said Muhammad Hamdan Bin Nazarudin, when asked about the three main attributes that he thinks nurses should possess. “It takes a lot of exposure and experience to develop these three attributes. I am not there yet, but someday I will be,” he added confidently.

“This profession allows me to care of the sick and vulnerable, and resonates with my calling to give back to society,” said Hamdan. “Nurses spend more time with patients as compared to other healthcare providers, so we must learn to identify any subtle changes in patients’ conditions to allow early intervention.”

Besides his studies, Hamdan has devoted a significant portion of his time to Co-Curricular Activity. As the president of Interact Club at ITE College East, he was a charismatic leader who ‘walked the talk’ and took personal responsibility to groom and mentor his club members. One of his memorable projects was ‘Project Buddy IN’. “It was a meaningful collaboration with Metta School because we had the opportunity to help students with social needs improve their social skills. It also helped to promote social inclusion,” he shared.

For Hamdan, learning does not stop within the walls of school. He represented ITE in the VTC-ITE International Student Seminar held in Hong Kong in 2015, and together with his team, they presented their concept on promoting family bonding through the planting of wheatgrass and sunflowers with the use of recycled items. It was well-received by the judges and audience. Hamdan served as a Paramedic Assistant, for four days, during the 28th SEA games held in Singapore in 2015. He also led a team of 30 students, under the Overseas Community Service Programme, to Manila, Philippines, where they taught Mathematics, English and Art & Craft through fun activities to about 250 children with special needs.

Aside from juggling the commitments above, the perfect Grade Point Average graduate actively pursues his passion in dance. “I have been dancing for 15 years now. It helps me to relax,” said Hamdan. He received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Health Promotion Board for choreographing and leading a dance performance for Right Healthy Lifestyle Habits Programme participants during Nurse’s Day 2015.

Hamdan will be heading to Nanyang Polytechnic to continue his studies in Nursing. “One day, I will return to ITE as a lecturer to inspire the next batch of nurses,” he shared excitedly.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Neo Yizhe
Course : *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering
College : ITE College West

Effort Today, Reward Tomorrow.

The look on his mother's face after Neo Yizhe showed her his 'N' level preliminary examinations result was the turning point in his life. He said, "I have never seen her so disappointed before, but she still encouraged me to do better for my 'N' levels." Yizhe was determined to study hard for his 'N' levels. He scored 15 points and could progress to Secondary 5. However, he chose to come to ITE as he wanted a hands-on education.

"As I put on my uniform on the first day of school, I told myself that I have to work hard and achieve good grades." And he did just that with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. Aside from his academic achievement, Yizhe actively led his fellow students to create innovative solutions to daily problems and even took time to serve the community.

"The two years in ITE gave me much exposure to numerous competitions and widened my perspective of the opportunities available to me." Yizhe has a keen interest in engineering projects and was the President of the Electrical Engineering Innovate Club at ITE College West. He led his club to innovate by taking part in several competitions. In his participation in the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors' Award 2016, his team created a letter box system to sort out junk letters from important letters through the use of an acrylic plate. His team also took part in the Greenwave Competition 2015 by inventing a socket outlet which can be operated wirelessly via a smart phone.

Yizhe also served as member of the Clean Energy Cub, Green Ambassador Club and Student Ambassador Club at ITE College West. His desire is to play a part in conserving Earth for the generations to come. He participated in numerous coastal clean-ups, Clean & Green Singapore recycling initiatives and Public Utilities Board projects. Yizhe has a heart for the elderly too. His family's weekly visits to his grandmother opened his eyes to the needs of the elderly. Thus, he frequently organised activities for the elderly at Cheshire Home. Yizhe was awarded Service Star (Gold) in 2015 for his volunteerism.

In April, Yizhe started another phase of his life at Singapore Polytechnic, studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering. His ambition is to be a fighter jet pilot with the Singapore Armed Forces and fly for a commercial airline thereafter. Yizhe believes hard work pays off, and lives by the motto: Effort today, Reward tomorrow.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2016

Name : Beh Swee Yang Sherwin
Course : *Nitec* in Automotive Technology (Light Vehicles)
College : ITE College West

Super Skilled

Twenty six-year-old Beh Swee Yang Sherwin is a mature young man with a diverse range of skills. From swimming and cooking to repairing watches and maintaining vehicles, Sherwin can do it all. Among his many skills, inter-personal skills stand out as most important for him. “To do well in many things, it is important to get other people’s support and understanding. That is the key to success,” Sherwin said.

Sherwin’s parents are the main reasons for his unique personality. From a young age, his parents have encouraged him to pursue his interests and seek out answers to his questions. An only child, Sherwin remembers his parents’ generosity in spending their time on him despite both of them working full time. The close-knit family often travelled together and Sherwin gathered different perspectives from his diverse experiences with his parents.

Sherwin was from the Normal (Academic) course. Fascinated by the many culinary flavours, he went on to study the Diploma in Culinary Arts at the Singapore Hotel and Tourism Education Centre (SHATEC). After he completed his National Service, he worked for two years as cook. Having an interest in automotive engineering since childhood, Sherwin took the bold step of taking up the *Nitec* in Automotive Technology course at the age of 24.

This step paid off. He has graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0 from ITE College West. A skilled leader, he also led the team to win the second runner-up place at the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2015 in the Prototype Battery Electric category, beating teams from universities in the process. He was Deputy President of both the ACE Club and the College’s swimming team that was the champion at the ITE Division Swimming Competition in 2014. He emceed several College events, achieved the ITE Youth Eco Ambassador Award and represented Singapore as the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange Youth Ambassador.

But Sherwin is not done. He is going on to Republic Polytechnic to study Industrial Operations and Management. After picking up management skills, his plan is to open a business that would marry all his skills and interests.