



**For Immediate Release**

**ITE Student Achievers' Award Presentation Ceremony 2015**

**Over 380 ITE Students Rewarded for Achievements in Various Arenas**

*Award-winning students stand as inspiring examples of an holistic ITE education*

28 May 2015 - ITE honoured **384 outstanding students** today at the annual ITE Student Achievers' Awards Presentation Ceremony 2015. Every student is endowed with individual talents to shine in different areas. Not only have these students excelled in areas such as the arts, sports and technological innovations, many of them have demonstrated exemplary character and grit to rise above their circumstances. These students are living examples of what it means to have an ITE education – one that is holistic and relevant to the industry.

2 Of these 384 students, **44 received the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) Award** – namely, the **LKY Model Student/Trainee Award**, the **LKY Co-Curricular (CCA) Award**, and the **LKY Technology Award**. The other 340 students received the ITE Arts Excellence Award; the ITE Sports Excellence Award; the ITE CCA Medal; and the ITE Student Commendation Award. A brief on all the Awards is at **Annex A**.

**From Darkness to Light**

3 Gary Lau Hwei's life was once filled with darkness. His younger days were spent participating in negative activities. After running away from home, Gary was sent to Remand Home and to Boys' Town for two years. At Boys' Town, he received positive reinforcement and care, and he decided to strive for an education. He is now an ITE graduate with a perfect Grade Point Average (GPA) score from the *Nitec* in Community Care & Social Services course. "Everyone deserves a second chance. Never judge or misjudge them, as it can kill their spirit," said Gary. This is the same message he shared during the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths, where he represented Singapore as a Youth Ambassador for National Youth Council.

4 The dream of this **Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award winner** is to be a professional social worker to help youths, and instil hope and purpose in their lives. At ITE, Gary found the

foundation for the skills he needs to fulfil this dream. Gary's strong character will light the way ahead for him and the other young people he hopes to reach out to.

### **From Directionless to Purposeful**

5 "I believe that you're never too late or too old to learn," said 25-year-old Nur Khairiyah Bte Lukman. Khairiyah initially enrolled for the *Nitec* in Nursing course, but left school after six months as she lacked direction. Concerned for her daughter's future, Khairiyah's beautician mother advised her to take up the one-year *Nitec* in Beauty and Wellness programme. After completing the programme, Khairiyah worked as an Operations Officer for two years, but she realised she was not going anywhere. She strongly believed that it was never too late, so she applied for the *Nitec* in Nursing course again.

6 Despite being a little older than her peers, at 23 years of age then, Khairiyah was not deterred from learning and pursuing her dreams of becoming a nurse, a dream that she had since childhood. This decision has changed her. Not only has she achieved a good GPA score of 3.83, she achieved this despite heavy commitments in her Co-Curricular Activities. As the President of Singapore Nurses Association Student Chapter, Khairiyah demonstrated strong leadership capabilities by mobilising her team to work towards a common goal. A lover of the outdoors and an avid environmental conservationist, Khairiyah was also an Eco-Ambassador in College. Khairiyah's strong sense of purpose makes her a deserving winner of the Lee Kuan Yew Co-Curricular Award.

### **From Wastage to Conservation**

6 Many of us take for granted what flows so freely from our shower heads. But ITE student, Gay Bing Shuen, knows better. Since young, his mother has taught him about how water is scarce in Singapore and how some countries still lack access to clean water. With the strong belief that water is valuable, Bing Shuen and his team mate, Dawami Fatimah Raiza Ngalih, used their skills to fabricate the 'Showering Reminder'. The 'Showering Reminder' incorporates a buzzer that would sound if one uses more water than the average amount of water needed for showering. The buzzer will keep ringing until the user has completed his bath. The device is designed to inculcate good shower habits, by helping users recognise when they have exceeded the volume of water necessary. For this innovative solution to a daily problem, Bing Shuen and Dawami received the **Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award**.

7 Profiles of the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award winners; the Lee Kuan Yew CCA Award recipients; and write-ups on the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award winning projects are at **Annexes B, C and D** respectively. For queries and arrangement for interviews and photography, please contact:

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## **About ITE**

The Institute of Technical Education (ITE) is a post-secondary education institution established in **1992** under the Ministry of Education. As a principal provider of career and technical education, and a key developer of national occupational skills certification and standards, ITE's Mission is to create opportunities for students and adult learners to acquire skills, knowledge and values for employability and lifelong learning. ITE's Vision is to be A Trailblazer in Career and Technical Education. Our Values are Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Care. ITE comprises the ITE Headquarters and three ITE Colleges - College Central, College East and College West. For more information, visit [www.ite.edu.sg](http://www.ite.edu.sg).