



## **Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award**

**Tham Xiu Yu**

***Nitec in  
Western Culinary Arts  
ITE College West***



# A Taste for Leadership

Leadership did not come naturally for Xiu Yu. When she entered ITE, she aimed to improve herself and step out of her comfort zone. With guidance from her lecturers and teachers, she realised her desire to lead while learning and growing as a student. Xiu Yu's family had taught her to have sense of responsibility to contribute to the community. Driven by this value, she embraced multiple leadership roles and contributed in ways within and beyond the campus.

In 2023, as Class Exco's Chairman, Xiu Yu initiated a partnership with Willing Hearts, a recognised charity in Singapore and roped in her classmates to help prepare meals for the beneficiaries. As President of the ITE School of Hospitality Culinary Club, she worked with her team to cook meals for elderly residents staying in rental flats at Teck Whye Lane.

Xiu Yu's contributions extended beyond Singapore. She was part of the ITE Culinary Team that represented Singapore at the Vocational Training Council's 'Singapore Food Event' in Hong Kong, where they showcased local cuisine. She also joined the Youth Expedition Project programme by Youth Corps Singapore and contributed to community projects aimed at improving local infrastructure in Sabah, Malaysia. She firmly believes that even the smallest of actions can make a big difference in people's lives.

## From the Heart

*"Be stronger than your excuse."*

## Life after ITE

Xiu Yu is pursuing a Technical Diploma in Culinary Arts with Restaurant Management at ITE to fulfil her aspiration of becoming a chef. She hopes to inspire others and continue contributing to society to help those who are in need.

## Top Achievements

- Despite having to juggle her studies, CCAs and community services commitments, Xiu Yu maintained a perfect GPA of 4.0.
- As Deputy President of the ACE Club, Xiu Yu led the MOE-ITE Adopt a Block community project where students from various institutions worked with residents to reduce water and electricity consumption, while promoting recycling and green efforts.
- She also played a pivotal role in the Rose of Peace Harmony Champions initiative, promoting social cohesion and multicultural harmony through a series of events like ITE Staff Appreciation Days and Brickland Children's Day, spreading messages of love and peace with roses.