

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** Samuel Choo Wai Meng  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Aerospace Technology  
**College:** ITE College Central

---

### **Making Second Chances Count**

Mixing with bad company, Samuel was a wayward youth. Enrolling in ITE in 2012, Samuel was disinterested in his studies and performed poorly. His family's unwavering care however, moved him and inspired him to change for the better.

After National Service, Samuel joined the *Nitec* in Aerospace Technology course to pursue his interest in aircraft. Back in ITE for a second time, he was determined to do well and start afresh. Samuel actively seized opportunities to better himself, participating in various community service projects and leadership forums. Establishing his strong leadership qualities, he was elected President of ITE College Central's Student Council.

### **From the Heart**

*"ITE gave me the chance to become a leader that I never thought I would be. As I am older than my peers, they respected me as a big brother. They would often approach me for advice on family or personal problems, and I would always set aside time to help them with these problems. Initially, I did not know whether I have really helped anyone. I only realised it towards the end of my stint in the Student Council, when many people came to thank me for my help. That was when I felt a sense of fulfilment, knowing that I have made a difference to the lives of others as a leader."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Training at GE Aviation Singapore as a repair technician, under the Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) in Aircraft Engine Maintenance programme.
- Aspires to be an aircraft engineer.

### **Top Achievements**

- Samuel was selected to be part of a Singapore delegation for the Singapore-Fujian Youth Leaders Exchange Programme 2019, where he hosted delegates from Fujian, China. He was the only ITE student in the group, which comprised university students and working adults.
- For his excellent service contributions, he won the ITE Service Star Diamond Award in 2019.
- Samuel excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0. He was in the Director's List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** Munifah Dhaniyah Binte Kamarudin  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Floristry  
**College:** ITE College Central

---

### **In Full Bloom**

Munifah's love for floristry blossomed at ITE unexpectedly. A leap of faith prompted her to enrol in the *Nitec* in Floristry course, where she grew to see floristry as her calling.

At ITE, Munifah actively immersed herself in various programmes to enrich her learning experience. Using her floristry skills, she led and facilitated a series of floral arrangement workshops for the community. Munifah was also well-liked by her classmates for being a compassionate and helpful leader. For group assignments, she would choose to join groups with less motivated students so that she could help them to improve.

### **From the Heart**

*"At ITE, I wanted to make the most out of the opportunities that were given to me. These opportunities not only made my education journey more meaningful, but also motivated me to learn more. They have also shaped my personal transformation. I used to be very shy, but I have since learnt to present myself better and be more confident."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing a Diploma in Landscape Architecture at Singapore Polytechnic.
- Aspires to work in the wedding industry, and help couples with wedding decorations.

### **Top Achievements**

- During her internship at Ritz Carlton Hotel, Munifah was commended by her manager for being "capable, proactive, responsible, and the best intern they ever had".
- She was selected to represent Singapore at the Southeast Asia Youth Leadership Programme, a three-week exchange programme in the United States.
- For her extensive service contributions, she won the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2018.
- An all-rounder, Munifah achieved a GPA score of 3.962. She was in the Director's List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** Nicole Baruela Ayathuray  
**Course:** Nitec in Space Design (Architecture)  
**College:** ITE College Central

---

### **“Growing Up” at ITE**

Listening to Nicole speak, most would think that she is a naturally outspoken person. Few could have imagined that she used to be a “shy girl”. Nicole credits her transformation to ITE, where she was given opportunities to achieve personal growth and breakthroughs.

Stepping out of her comfort zone to participate in various school activities, Nicole built her confidence and established her leadership qualities. She became recognised for her strong communication skills, which she used to positively influence others.

Conscious of her social responsibility, Nicole also volunteered in various community service programmes. These included facilitating an educational camp for underprivileged children.

### **From the Heart**

*“I have grown more as a person since I entered ITE. During the first three months, I struggled a lot because I was really shy. With time, I realised that it was important to get involved in co-curricular activities (CCAs), as they enable us to pick up important life skills and values.*

*I learnt that going to school is not just about studying, but also about becoming a better person. Therefore, I took the two years in ITE to grow myself. I am glad to have become more confident in expressing my opinions and being a leader.”*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing a Diploma in Landscape Architecture at Singapore Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be a provider of wedding décor services.

### **Top Achievements**

- Nicole was one of three ITE students selected to participate in the Futures Thinking and Scenario Planning Workshop for Youths by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, where she exchanged ideas with youths on public policy issues.
- Through her strong leadership qualities, she was appointed as Chairman of the CCA and Enrichment Committee of ITE College Central’s Student Council.
- Diligent and self-motivated, Nicole achieved a GPA score of 3.966. She was in the Director’s List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** 'Aqilah Insyirah Bte Abdul R  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Mechanical Technology  
**College:** ITE College East

---

### **Graduating from the School of Hard Knocks**

'Aqilah enrolled in the *Nitec* in Automotive Technology course in 2014, but dropped out due to lack of interest and poor attendance. To support herself, she worked in the Food & Beverage line for two years. In this period, she reflected on her purpose in life. Aspiring to better support her parents through a good education and be a role model for her siblings, she re-enrolled in ITE in 2018.

While she was determined to succeed this time, she still had little confidence in doing well for her studies. With her lecturers' support, 'Aqilah gained self-belief and learned to seize opportunities to achieve her potential. Besides actively participating in community and overseas exchange programmes, she mentored her peers and served as Vice-President of the Robotics Club.

### **From the Heart**

*"In ITE, I discovered my love for service learning, especially when accompanied by friends. I joined the ELEVATE programme by Community Chest, which allows me to use my skills to serve the community. It was a very enriching experience. Through the programme, we serviced wheelchairs and the elderly appreciated our companionship. I hope to continue engaging myself in similar activities, and use my engineering skills to give back to society."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing the Common Engineering Programme at Temasek Polytechnic, where she can select an engineering-related diploma to specialise in after completing the first year.
- Aspires to build a career in engineering.

### **Top Achievements**

- Developing a system that alerts the elderly to remove keys from the lock after use, 'Aqilah led her team to clinch the Merit Award (Technology Category) at the 7<sup>th</sup> National Assistive & Rehabilitation Technologies Student Innovation Challenge.
- She was selected for the Student Social Media Team that supported publicity of the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council (VTC)-ITE International Student Seminar 2019.
- For her dedicated service contributions, she won the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2019.
- Excelling academically, 'Aqilah achieved a GPA score of 4.0. She was in the Director's List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.

<b>LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020</b> <b>RECIPIENT PROFILES</b>
---

**Name:** Derrick Neo Zhan Ming  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in IT Systems & Networks  
**College:** ITE College East

---

### **Giving Back to the Community**

Just one point shy of qualifying for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme left Derrick feeling disappointed after his N-Levels. However, he did not stay down for long. Instead, he decided to give his best shot at ITE and distinguished himself as an all-round achiever.

Derrick strongly believes in giving back to the community, as he credits his own success to the support of people around him. Despite his packed schedule, he participated in numerous community service projects. These included a trip to Thailand to construct a water filtration system for a rural school. Outside of ITE, he volunteered at a soup kitchen to pack food for the needy, and also taught art at a special needs school.

### **From the Heart**

*"I took part in many college and community events, because I saw it as a way to make a positive impact to the community. My most memorable experience was the overseas community service trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Over there, we helped to build a water filtration system so that the locals can have access to fresh water. It felt very rewarding to know I have made a difference to their lives.*

*My journey in ITE taught me that good leaders have the ability to influence, inspire and create an impact on others regardless of their rank or title. I aspire to be such a leader."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing Nanyang Polytechnic's Common Infocomm Technology (ICT) Programme, where he can select an ICT-related Diploma to specialise in after completing the first year.
- Aspires to build a career in the infocomm industry, particularly in the field of cyber security.

### **Top Achievements**

- Derrick completed the 21-day Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) Classic Challenge Course and achieved the OBS Leadership and Service Award in 2018. As part of this programme, he implemented a project to help assimilate migrant workers into local society.
- Derrick and his team raised over \$14,000 for charity by organising a movie gala, which won them the Citi-YMCA Youth for Causes Merit Award 2019.
- For his outstanding service contributions, he received the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2018 and Platinum Award in 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** Ong Siew Li  
**Course:** Nitec in Finance Services  
**College:** ITE College East

---

### **Positive Energy, Positive Results**

Despite being one of the few girls in a traditionally male-dominated sport, Siew Li pulls no punches in her judo co-curricular activity. Beneath her tough image, however, she is known for her easy-going and warm personality. This has enabled Siew Li to thrive in her role as the Vice President of the Student Ambassadors Club, which involved recruiting volunteers for various activities.

Siew Li is well-liked by her peers for her positive energy and enthusiasm in helping others. These shone through in her dedication towards coaching her juniors in their responsibilities, and mentoring her classmates in their studies.

### **From the Heart**

*“My personal motto is – ‘Don’t be afraid to grasp opportunities, seize the once-in-a-lifetime moment and things will work out!’*

*Initially, I was worried about committing too much time as a leader in the Student Ambassadors Club. However, at the end of my term, I did not have any regrets! The activities kept me really busy but overall, they have made my time at ITE a very fulfilling experience. Through those activities, I have also made many new friends from different courses, who have given me fresh perspectives on many things.”*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing a Diploma in Human Resource Management with Psychology at Republic Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be a teacher in future, as she enjoys coaching others.

### **Top Achievements**

- For her outstanding co-curricular achievements, Siew Li received the ITE CCA Medal in 2018.
- Through her extensive service contributions, she won the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2018 and Platinum Award in 2019.
- Diligent in her studies, Siew Li achieved a GPA score of 3.911. She was in the Director’s List for two terms, in 2018 and 2019.
- For demonstrating all-round excellence, she received the Edusave Award for Achievement, Good Leadership and Service.

<b>LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020</b> <b>RECIPIENT PROFILES</b>
---

**Name:** Muhammad Sufyan Bin Juhari  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Fitness Training  
**College:** ITE College West

---

### **Bouncing Back Stronger**

Beneath his gentle and humble disposition, Sufyan holds a strong will to bounce back quickly from disappointments. Despite failing Mathematics in his O-Levels, he did not let that bring him down. Instead, he became driven to do better at ITE.

With a love for sports, Sufyan enrolled in the *Nitec* in Fitness Training course. He was inspired by the advice of his brothers, who encouraged him to choose a pursuit that he enjoys.

At ITE, Sufyan established himself as a leader and role model with a heart for others. He would dedicate time to help his classmates in their studies, and was appointed as a student mentor. He also led the Publication and Communication Committee of ITE College West's Student Council.

### **From the Heart**

*"When I started to see myself doing well at ITE, I was motivated to keep doing even better. I also wanted to help my classmates, so we often studied and did projects together.*

*At ITE, my lecturers were like father and mother figures to me and my classmates. I want to become an ITE lecturer, just like them. I also want to encourage other students to look beyond the past and look to the future."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing a Diploma in Sports Coaching at Republic Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be an ITE lecturer, after building his experience in fitness training.

### **Top Achievements**

- During his internship at the Singapore Island Country Club, Sufyan received strong compliments from his manager for successfully planning major events such as the Christmas Day celebrations for the Club's members.
- He designed fitness activities to engage those with health conditions at the SingHealth President's Challenge 2019 and World Day for Physical Activity 2019.
- For his outstanding conduct and dedication to community service, Sufyan received the Edusave Character Award in 2018 and the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2019.
- Sufyan did well in his studies, achieving a GPA score of 3.944. He was in the Director's List for two terms, in 2018 and 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILES**

**Name:** Muhammad Zaliq B Husri  
**Course:** Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound)  
**College:** ITE College West

---

### **Stronger, Wiser, Better**

When Zaliq entered ITE in 2013, he was a dispirited student. He was distraught from his father's passing shortly before his N-Levels. Struggling to find purpose in his studies then, Zaliq did not do well. During his National Service, he was convinced by his supervisor on the importance of education. This inspired him to restart his studies at ITE.

With an interest in lighting systems, Zaliq enrolled in the Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound) course. He shared his story with his schoolmates to motivate them. Being older, he believed it was his responsibility to help them wherever he could. Seen as a role model, Zaliq was appointed to mentor a classmate who was showing disinterest in studies. His guidance helped to transform his classmate, who graduated successfully.

### **From the Heart**

*"When I returned to ITE after my National Service, I saw it as a place where I can turn my life around. Initially, it was very draining to be involved in many school commitments. However, I told myself that it was a 'make it or break it' period for me, and I could not afford to repeat my past mistakes. No matter how tired I was, I would motivate myself to persevere.*

*My lecturers also supported me a lot. They knew that I came back to ITE to have a better future so they helped me in any way that they could. ITE is a place that helps students to achieve their best, regardless of their life circumstances."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing a Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be a police officer who can help to make a difference in people's lives.

### **Top Achievements**

- Creating an animation of a futuristic Singapore using Lego bricks, Zaliq and his team clinched second place in the open category of the SG75 national competition.
- For his outstanding achievements in the Student Council, he won the ITE CCA Medal in 2019.
- Excelling in his service contributions, he received the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2018 and Diamond Award in 2019.
- Zaliq performed well in his studies, achieving a GPA score of 4.0. He was in the Director's List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.



<b>LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2020</b> <b>RECIPIENT PROFILES</b>
---

**Name:** Ryan Tan Tuan Chun  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Western Culinary Arts  
**College:** ITE College West

---

### **Cooking from the Heart**

As a child, Ryan often complained about his mother's cooking. In response, his mother challenged him to cook for himself. Taking up the challenge, he has been cooking since primary school. A few months after beginning Secondary 5, Ryan realised that he wanted to pursue culinary arts instead of taking the O-Levels. Against his parents' wishes, he left secondary school and joined the *Nitec* in Western Culinary Arts course.

At ITE, Ryan's passion for cooking motivated him to excel above challenging circumstances. These included rigours of working almost daily as a kitchen helper to support himself, and the long travelling time from his home to campus. Ryan also used his culinary skills to serve the community, by preparing food for fundraising events and cooking for the elderly.

### **From the Heart**

*"Working in the culinary industry is tough, but I feel very satisfied when I see my completed dish on a plate and my skills improving day by day. This is how I have made my parents proud. Working in this industry also feels like getting an extra value meal, because you end up receiving a lot more in return. You learn determination and valuable life skills.*

*I used to be late for school often during secondary school. However, I was never late for classes at ITE despite the two-hour journey I had to make to school. Every day, the excitement to learn new culinary skills motivated me to make my way to school on time. When you are passionate about something, you will never be late for it."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Pursuing the Technical Diploma in Culinary Arts at ITE College West.
- Aspires to continue honing his culinary skills and be a successful chef.

### **Top Achievements**

- During his internship at Michelin-starred Les Amis restaurant, Ryan earned the Les Amis scholarship through his stellar performance.
- His team emerged first runner-up in the Tabasco Hot Chef Competition, which was open to chefs under 21. They beat teams from other institutions and the industry.
- For his dedication to community service, he received the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2018.
- Ryan excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0. He was in the Director's List for all terms from 2018 to 2019.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2020**  
**RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Muhammad Fadzrin Adzri Bin Adnan  
**Course:** Nitec in Facility Technology (Mechanical & Electrical Services)  
**Organisation:** Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel

---

### **Way to Go, Go-Getter!**

Two years ago, Fadzrin's heart sank when he learnt that his mother was diagnosed with cancer. He was then a few months into ITE's Traineeship programme. Drawing strength from adversity, Fadzrin motivated himself to perform even better in his work and studies.

As a trainee at Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel's Engineering Department, he was recognised for his positive attitude and strong work ethic. He was also well regarded for his eagerness to learn and improve himself. As a hands-on person, Fadzrin would constantly seek to expand his repair and maintenance skills by tinkering with various appliances.

### **From the Heart**

*"In my line of work, I often meet external contractors. Some of them will not take me seriously because of my young age. However, I proved them wrong as I know my work areas well.*

*My advice to my juniors is to work hard for a desired outcome. If you want something to be done, take charge, learn and complete the task. Instead of depending on others to take action, take the initiative to do it yourself and make things happen. When you are armed with knowledge, others can depend on you."*

### **Life after ITE**

- Plans to further his studies in engineering, after he completes his National Service.
- Dreams of becoming an engineer in future, or opening his own mechanical shop.

### **Top Achievements**

- Fadzrin was commended for his exemplary work performance and good conduct, throughout his traineeship at Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel.
- He supported the Hotel's community service event for the disabled, by guiding guests from the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore through various activities.
- He shares his love for Nerf guns by voluntarily conducting related workshops at ITE College West, which prompted a group of enthusiasts to form a Nerf gun club in the College.
- Fadzrin excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0.