



PROFILES OF TOP ITE GRADUATES

LEE KUAN YEW GOLD MEDAL

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

Turning Life Around

As a youth, Samuel mixed with the wrong company and often got into trouble. Enrolling in ITE in 2012, he was disinterested in his studies and did not do well. Over time, his family's unwavering support moved him and motivated him to change for the better. After National Service, Samuel enrolled in the *Nitec* in Aerospace Technology course to pursue his interest in aircraft. He was then determined to start anew and prove himself.

Driven by this spirit, Samuel excelled in his studies. He also actively participated in various community service projects and leadership programmes. Establishing his strong leadership abilities, Samuel was elected President of ITE College Central's Student Council. He was well respected as a caring leader, who often took time to help others with their personal challenges.

Leading by Example

"I am thankful that ITE gave me a second chance to succeed. The greatest takeaway I had from my time at ITE was learning to be a leader. Through the many events and forums that I participated in, I learnt to step out of my comfort zone and grow my leadership skills. The greatest satisfaction of being a leader is knowing that I have left a positive impact on those around me."

After ITE

Samuel is undergoing training at GE Aviation as a repair technician, under the Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) in Aircraft Engine Maintenance programme.

Top Achievements

- For being an exemplary all-rounder, Samuel won the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award in 2020.
- Samuel was selected to be part of a Singapore delegation for the Singapore-Fujian Youth Leaders Exchange Programme 2019, which hosted delegates from Fujian, China. He was the only ITE student in the delegation, which comprised working adults and university students.
- For his excellence in community service, Samuel received the ITE Service Star Diamond Award in 2019.



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Name: Tang Yu Alexander
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Biotechnology
College: ITE College East

Rising Above Grief

On his 16th birthday, Alexander received news about his grandmother's demise and his father's diagnosis with Stage 3 Liver Cancer. In a matter of months, Alexander lost his father to cancer. His self-employed mother became the sole breadwinner of his household that includes his sister, an uncle who has Down Syndrome and a depressed grandfather. Then, Alexander stopped taking an allowance from his mother and began relying on government bursaries for his expenses.

As he gradually stepped out of grief, he enrolled in ITE and focused on his education. Alexander did not let his loss nor his Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder affect his studies. He excelled academically and even represented ITE in the WorldSkills Singapore Competition 2020, in the area of Chemical & Laboratory Technology. Daily after school, he and his sister would take turns to care for their uncle and grandfather. Yet, Alexander still made time to volunteer at community events and deliver meals to the needy. He stands out as a youth with a big heart and extraordinary grit and tenacity, traits that few his age would possess.

The Secret to Success Despite Adversity

"Hard work and perseverance are key to success. We also need to be thankful for whatever we have and serve others around us. When we serve others, we open our minds and step out of our own circumstances."

After ITE

Alexander is pursuing the Diploma in Medical Biotechnology at Temasek Polytechnic.

Top Achievements

- Alexander won second place in the Open Group category of the SG75: Our Singapore Competition, organised by the Tanjong Pagar-Tiong Bahru CCC under the People's Association.
- He was the Champion of the ITE College East Public Speaking Competition 2019.
- Alexander received the Howe Yoon Chong PSA Scholarship 2019 and Gold Service Star Award in 2019. He was on the Director's List in 2018 and 2019, and graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0.



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LEE KUAN YEW GOLD MEDAL

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

Becoming a Better Self

Devastated by the passing of his father before his N-Levels, Zaliq entered ITE in 2013 in low spirits. He struggled to find meaning in his studies and performed poorly. His turning point came during National Service, when his supervisor advised him on the importance of good education. This motivated him to restart his education at ITE.

Being interested in lighting systems, Zaliq enrolled in the *Nitec* in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound) course. As a fan of musical performances, he has been fascinated by how stage lighting enhances a show.

The return to school however, had its challenges for Zaliq. While managing school commitments, he also worked part-time to support his family. This took a toll on him initially, but he persevered and was determined to succeed. In ITE, Zaliq developed a passion for helping his schoolmates stay motivated in their studies. He would often share his story with them, and set himself as an example they could learn from.

Believe in Yourself

“I am always looking to improve myself. I believe that is the key to a better future. No matter what circumstances you are in, you can find your own success if you set your mind on achieving it. There are many lecturers at ITE who want to help you achieve your best. You just need to work hard, stay determined, and believe in yourself.”

After ITE

Zaliq is pursuing a Diploma in Electrical Engineering at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Top Achievements

- For his all-round achievements, Zaliq won the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award in 2020 and ITE CCA Medal in 2019.
- Creating an animation of a futuristic Singapore using Lego bricks, Zaliq and his team clinched second place in the open category of the SG75: Our Singapore Competition. The competition required submission of works that envision Singapore’s future.
- For his outstanding service contributions, Zaliq received the ITE Service Star Diamond Award in 2019 and Gold Award in 2018.



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TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

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

Motivated to Grow

The journey towards self-discovery can happen anytime. For Nicole, it happened at ITE. Naturally a shy person, she struggled during her first three months at ITE. Nicole soon realised that she had to be more proactive to progress. The first step she took was to get involved in Co-Curricular Activities (CCA), which she believed helped change her perspective and taught her new skills.

From there, Nicole blossomed, growing into the bubbly and outspoken girl that she is today. Her diligence, excellent work ethics, articulation and ability to express her thoughts clearly earned her opportunities to take part in events, such as an international workshop and conference. In addition, her commitment to making the most out of her ITE education saw her excel in her CCA, her College's student talent development programme, and her studies. All, while enjoying her time at ITE.

Nurturing Oneself

"Going to school is not just about studying, but also about developing yourself as a person. I took the two years in ITE to grow myself. I've become more confident and learnt the importance of having opinions and being knowledgeable."

After ITE

Nicole is pursuing a diploma in Landscape Architecture at Singapore Polytechnic.

Top Achievements

- Nicole was named the Top Graduate for the School of Design & Media at ITE College Central in Feb 2020. She also received the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award 2020.
- Nicole was one of only two ITE students at the 'Future Thinking and Scenario Planning' workshop organised by the LKY School of Public Policy. She was the only student representative from her College at the prestigious Singapore Bicentennial Conference, where international thought leaders discussed Singapore's history.
- She was named Valedictorian for the US Embassy Mentoring Programme.



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TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

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

Second Chance Made Good

From a frequent absentee in her secondary school days to a top graduate now, 'Aqilah's life was never short of ups and downs. When she first enrolled in ITE in 2014, a lack of interest in automotive technology and poor attendance resulted in her dropping out to work in the Food & Beverage line for two years. At work, it struck her that a good education can lead to a better future and this wake-up call urged her to re-enroll in ITE in 2018. Since then, she aspires to be a role model for her siblings and a strong pillar of support for her parents.

With renewed confidence, 'Aqilah seized every opportunity to learn in ITE and even mentored fellow classmates. She led in a group competition, participated actively in overseas exchange programmes, and community outreach and engagement events. As the Vice-President of the Robotics Club, she also championed the use of programming in robots to enthuse secondary school students to choose engineering as their course of choice.

Service at Heart

"When I entered ITE, everything was new and confusing, but I grew to like my course. Studying became fun. This course has definitely opened up many options for me to choose from, after graduation. It is also in ITE that I discovered that I enjoy service learning such as repairing wheelchairs for the less abled. My dream is to use my engineering skills to give back to society one day."

After ITE

- 'Aqilah is pursuing an Engineering Diploma at Temasek Polytechnic.

Top Achievements

- She is the Team leader of a group project 'My Smart Key AMD' that won the Merit Award (Technology Category) in the 7th National Assistive & Rehabilitation Technologies - Student Innovation Challenge 2019. This competition challenges students to develop innovative devices and solutions that will benefit the elderly and persons with disabilities.
- As a Chip Eng Seng Study Grant recipient, 'Aqilah's diligence put her on the Directors' List in 2019 and 2018 for all school terms and she graduated with a perfect GPA score of 4.0. She was also awarded the Service Star Award (Gold) in 2019.
- She was also an active member of the International Student Seminar 2019's Student Social Media Team, coming up with interesting posts to promote the seminar.



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TAY ENG SOON GOLD MEDAL

Name: Pau Yee Song
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Leisure & Travel Operations
College: ITE College West

Setbacks are Setups for Success

Despite scoring an impressive nine points for his GCE Normal Academic examination, Pau Yee Song did not qualify for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme, since he did not meet the other critical criteria. Naturally, he was at a loss on his next step. However, his disappointment quickly transformed into joy as he learned of many interesting courses offered by ITE. Finding inspiration from a post-examination holiday he planned for his classmates to Australia, he decided to enroll in the *Higher Nitec* in Leisure & Travel Operations at ITE College West.

Yee Song found the initial transition from secondary school to a post-secondary institution overwhelming. He felt he had to hit the road running in an unfamiliar environment, with a different hands-on style of learning, with new peers and teachers. Through perseverance and dedication, he aced his studies and excelled in CCA, as the President of the West Symphonia orchestra. Yee Song is grateful for the exposure and support he received from ITE, in balancing his academic pursuits with the orchestra's hectic performances and practice schedule.

Opening New Doors

"The amazing thing is sometimes setbacks set you up for something better. My life may not have been what I envisioned it to be, but I ended up exactly where I am meant to be. My time at ITE has been an eye-opener - I entered as a scared and unsure teenager, but I leave as an inspired and confident youth. The experiences, skills and knowledge I have gained in the past two years are strong foundations that I will continue to build upon. It was worth everything for me!"

After ITE

Yee Song is currently pursuing a Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. After serving National Service, he plans to pursue a Degree in Business Studies at a local university. Yee Song aspires to work at Changi Airport as a Changi Experience Ambassador.

Top Achievements

- Yee Song had consecutively made it to the Director's List throughout his course. He scored a perfect 4.0 GPA. He was also awarded the Service Star Award (Gold) in 2019.
- He led a team representing the Leisure and Travel Operations department to compete at the Singapore MICE Challenge 2019, a nationwide challenge for all tertiary students.
- Yee Song still managed to find time to volunteer for community outreach programmes and grassroots activities, such as the FoodNotes 2018 at Bukit Panjang where he distributed flyers



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and collected food donations from residents for charity; and bringing cheer to residents of the Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital through student performances and fun activities.



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THE Ngee ANN KONGSI GOLD MEDAL

Name: Alex Oh Jia Shun
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Games Programming & Development
College: ITE College Central

No Pause Button to Game Excellence

When an eight-year-old Alex started playing computer games and was hooked on them, his parents saw his gaming habit as a disturbing addiction. Eventually, they embraced gaming as a part of Alex's identity. It was Alex's mother who suggested that he turn his passion into a career. Her wisdom ignited his drive to learn the art of game creation from a young age.

In ITE, he chose to take up *Nitec* in Digital Animation and after serving his National Service, he embarked on his dream course - *Higher Nitec* in Games Programming & Development. The two courses played to his strength. With an appreciation of the artistic aspects of gaming from his *Nitec* course, he furthered his skills in games development through the *Higher Nitec* course.

Alex participated in several gaming competitions and showcases, and even published two games. These experiences have not only added to his strong portfolio, but also nurtured his confidence in presenting his creations to his peers and industry players. Alex studies gaming beyond schooling hours and savours every opportunity to learn more. Today, his parents have a different concern – their 24-year-old is addicted to honing his game development skills and seldom takes a break in pursuing his passion.

Success is a Multi-Player Game

"My ITE lecturers believed in me and encouraged me to join my first game development competition, despite my self-doubts. They supported me and fed my never-ending hunger for more knowledge, with lessons beyond the school time-table. I am addicted to learning the programming and artistic sides of game development.

I enjoy creating the storyline for games and touching someone's life when he or she plays the games I create. Games can bring joy and meaning to a person, and even develop qualities like problem-solving skills and optimism."

After ITE

Alex is pursuing the Diploma in Game Design & Development at Singapore Polytechnic. He dreams of starting a gaming studio and putting Singapore on the world map in the gaming industry.

Top Achievements

- Alex was the Lead Programmer and leader of a four-member team that showcased their game at the Campus Game Fest 2019. After Alex presented the game, Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, played the game and praised it. This experience was particularly memorable for Alex.



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- Alex and a schoolmate took part in the Game Maker's Toolkit Game Jam 2019, an annual international 48-hour game making marathon. Their game "One Flip" clinched the 127th position out of 2617 international competitors.
- He undertook key roles including Lead Programmer, Lead Artist, Assistant Programmer, 3D Artist and Technical Artist, in the development of various games such as 'McSausageMan', 'Yee Haw Shooter', 'InOpulent' and 'Retro City - SimmerJam2'. Most of these games were submitted for entries into gaming competitions, including the Independent Games Festival 2018 which sees the largest annual gathering of the indie video game industry.



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THE Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal

Name: Siti Nurshamira Bte Sabri
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Sport Management
College: ITE College East

Sporting a New Look

Since secondary school days, Nurshamira has always been keen on sports. When she saw coaches and sport physicians during football matches, her curiosity about their roles led to an interest in ITE's Sport Management course. The outgoing youth realised it is not only about fitness and health, but also about organising sporting and recreational events effectively. She is glad that she could marry her interest in sports with her desire to help others, in her dream job as a Sport Physician.

Driven by a strong passion in volunteerism, Nurshamira also actively sought ways beyond her course, to help others. Wearing several hats – as a team leader, facilitator and volunteer, she spearheaded various community service initiatives in school. One of her key contributions was with Operation Hands-On, in leading the distribution of hand sanitisers and face masks to the elderly, bus drivers, cleaners and foreign workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A hardworking and caring youth, Nurshamira thrived in her course and volunteering pursuits. Her constant exposure to community service projects shaped her views on the desired characteristics of a true leader. She strives to be a leader who is trustworthy and will never fail to be there for others.

It's Truly Exciting

"ITE forms a significant part in my life. My lecturers constantly supported me through the years in my course of study. I motivate myself by stepping up to any challenges and accepting feedback as positive comments. To me, ITE stands for 'It's Truly Exciting' as the school is full of opportunities for us to grasp and achieve new learning experiences."

After ITE

Nurshamira is currently pursuing a Diploma in Sports and Exercise Sciences at Republic Polytechnic. She aspires to be a Sport Physician in future.

Top Achievements

- Nurshamira received the Top Graduate Award for ITE College East. Dedicated, hardworking and an exemplary role model to other students, Nurshamira achieved a GPA of 3.732.
- For her outstanding performance in studies and CCA activities, she was on the Director's List (March 2018 – Sep 2019) and received Edusave Merit Bursary Award (2019), Edusave Character Award (2019) and *Lembaga Biasiswa Kenangan Maulud* Academic Excellence Award (2019).
- Nurshamira displayed strong leadership qualities in her CCA, Bridge Leaders. She facilitated several key College events, including Orientation Week for new students.



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THE Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal

Name: Mok Ting Yuan
Course: Nitec in Infocomm Technology
College: ITE College West

Being a Change Agent

In secondary school, Ting Yuan had a notorious reputation and almost dropped out of school. Beneath the image of a problematic student was a youth struggling to break out of the poverty cycle. Over time, he came to realise that education can be an equaliser in social mobility so he resolved to give his best in studies.

In ITE, Ting Yuan appeared consistently on the Director's List and was enlisted into the ACE Club for academic achievers. A true team player, he volunteered as a Student-Mentor to coach his peers so that nobody was left behind. The charismatic youth was elected President of the Mobile Apps and Service Club and Vice President for the Fun Go-Kart Club. Reflecting on his own journey, Ting Yuan developed a "heart of service" - participating in meaningful projects that encouraged inclusiveness and battled climate change. Within two years, he left a mark of excellence in everything he did and earned a long list of accolades in return. From a delinquent to a beacon of hope, Ting Yuan's successful transformation is one that will inspire positive change in others.

Good Work in Progress

"Change is not by chance but a choice we have to make. Failure can be a key to success if you use it as a motivation to try harder and never give up. My life was impacted by failure after failure, but I did not concede defeat. I embraced the opportunity given to me at ITE - a brand new start to build the life I want for my loved ones.

My days are now long and packed with events and activities, but I am never tired. In fact, I feel energised, purposeful and motivated to do my best and be of service to others. I wish to thank my lecturers for their support and encouragement, especially my Class Advisor, Mr Tan Yeow Khoon. My life is now filled with endless possibilities and I am excited to live it to the fullest!

After ITE

Ting Yuan is currently pursuing a Diploma in Infocomm Security Technology at Singapore Polytechnic. After serving National Service, he plans to enter the workforce to gain useful industry experience and start supporting his family. Ting Yuan dreams of setting up his own IT company, developing apps and softwares that will enrich people's life.

Top Achievements

- The list of awards Ting Yuan bagged in his two years with ITE included the suite of Edusave Awards (Character Award, Certificate of Academic Achievement, Eagles Award, Merit Bursary and Skills Award). For his outstanding academic performance, he was also awarded the PMAS Book Prize 2020 and Chip Eng Seng's Community Service Study Grant.



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- For his outstanding contributions in leadership and service to the community, Ting Yuan achieved the OBS Leadership and Service Award (2018), ITE College West Gold Service Star Award (2018) and Diamond Service Star Award (2019). He was also awarded the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold) in 2020.
- He led his team to clinch the Merit Award in a smoke-free campaign in the Singapore Cancer Society Inter-School Competition 2019. His project was also instrumental in encouraging his own family member to quit smoking!



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e2i GOLD MEDAL

Name: Teo Wei Li Willie
Course: Nitec in Technology – Automotive Technology (Light Vehicles)
College: ITE College West

Smooth Sailing with New Skills

As a Business Development Manager in a company selling marine-related products, Willie is involved in the sales and distribution of engine parts and seawater pumps. Although he has a diploma in Mechatronics Engineering and a Business degree, Willie's lack of technical knowledge in the automotive field, however, meant that he struggled in understanding catalogues and looking for the right parts. Despite conducting research, Willie was unable to grasp the knowledge and concepts, and decided to undergo formal training to upskill himself.

ITE's curriculum and hands-on training was exactly what Willie was looking for and he decided to sign up for an Automotive Technology course. His enthusiasm and drive saw him excel in his course, despite having minimal knowledge on the subject, while juggling his work and family commitments. Yet Willie even found time to help weaker classmates in their school work. ITE has not only given Willie the skills and confidence to provide solutions and technical support to his clients, but also the knowledge to communicate effectively with his technicians and engineers. As a bonus, Willie can now troubleshoot his wife's car if it ever has a problem!

Changing Perspectives

"I had reservations about joining the ITE CET programme, but they were quickly eclipsed by what the school and teachers offered. From the very first lesson, there was always something new and interesting to learn. Not only did I gain theoretical and practical knowledge, the experience also changed me – I learnt to approach the unknown with great curiosity."

After ITE

The training at ITE equipped Willie with the necessary skills to perform his job efficiently and to solve customer's issues.

Top Achievements

- Willie achieved the Certificate of Merit and Gold Course Medal for his course.
- He used to find it frustrating that he is unable to relate to his clients and understand their problems fully. He also struggled to understand catalogues and manuals, which further hindered his work. The training he received at ITE gave him the skills needed to use the tools in his job effectively. He could also read service manuals and diagrams with ease now, thereby increasing the pace of his learning at work.



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IES ENGINEERING AWARD

Name: Nabillah Bee Bte Basheer Ahmad
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Mechatronics Engineering
College: ITE College Central

All-Rounder Role Model

Whenever her father fixed spoilt plugs or did air conditioner maintenance at home, a young Nabillah followed him around and watched eagerly. Influenced by her father's technical competence and her mother's inclination towards statistics, Nabillah naturally grew to like hard sciences. In her early teens, she decided to pursue engineering as her choice of study and future career.

Nabillah blossomed in ITE as she truly enjoyed what she was learning. In her course, she picked up electrical, electronics and mechanical skills. These skills will put her in good stead in any engineering field. Out of the classroom, she led a busy yet fulfilling school life. The numerous awards that she attained bore testament to her strong leadership skills. As the Vice-President of the CD-Lionhearter and 3D Printing Clubs, she imparted life-saving skills and guided members effectively in mastering 3D sketching and printing techniques, respectively. In all that she does, she is guided by her personal motto to make a lasting, positive impact on society.

Girls Fare As Well

“Even though engineering is a traditionally male-dominated field, I think women can perform as well as men. My goal is to be a Biomedical Engineer. I think this job has a direct positive impact on the less abled. Those who are physically disabled may not have the resources to procure assistive devices. I would like to use my engineering skills to help narrow that gap they face.”

After ITE

Under the Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic Programme, Nabillah is currently pursuing a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in Singapore Polytechnic. She intends to specialise in Biomedical Engineering in her third year of study.

Top Achievements

- With a perfect GPA score of 4.0, Nabillah emerged as the Outstanding and Top Graduate in the School of Engineering of ITE College Central. She was consistently on Director's List for all four terms of her studies (2018/2019).
- She was involved in two technology projects – ‘Sensing for the Visually Impaired’ and ‘Smart Mobile Robot’ that were listed among the Top 15 Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award 2020 projects. As the leader in ‘Smart Mobile Robot’ group, she took the initiative to learn Python Programming by herself, so that she could contribute in facial recognition and object identification of the robot.
- Besides excelling academically, Nabillah was active in community work and displayed strong leadership skills in her two CCAs - CD-Lionhearter Club and 3D Printing Club. She was presented with Service Star Award 2019 (CARE) - Gold (2019) and Eagles Award (Leadership



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Award - 2019). She also received the Outstanding CD-Lionhearter Award (2019) and SCDF Loadstar 2 Mentoring Programme (2018) from Singapore Civil Defence Force.