

**PROFILE OF RECIPIENTS OF LEE KUAN YEW CO-CURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES AWARD 2015**

**Name:** Ng Hui Min Janet  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Business Studies (Administration)  
**College:** ITE College West

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**Choices. Chances. Changes.**

ITE was not Janet's first choice, but she made it her best choice. She shared, "I was turned down for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme and decided to apply for the Direct Admission to Polytechnic Programme in ITE." Since then, she never looked back. Completing her *Higher Nitec* in Business Studies (Administration) was only one of her many accomplishments at ITE. She is thankful for the support from her family and friends, as well as the opportunities given by her lecturers to mould her into a successful graduate, a recipient of the distinguished Lee Kuan Yew CCA Award.

A firm believer in giving back to the society, Janet consciously devotes a portion of her time to Ace Club, a Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) that encourages students to work on projects that would benefit the community. She partnered the Council for Third Age in conducting four intergenerational learning workshops for 20 seniors over one month, teaching them the basics of playing the ukulele. Due to her background in Event Management, she was selected as one of the four delegates to represent Singapore at the ASEAN Youth Expo 2014 in Jakarta.

Janet fully embodies the 'Hearts-On' attribute of an ITE student. Despite her heavy commitments in the final year, she spearheaded 'Evolution to 50', an event to commemorate the nation's upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. She has managed to receive funding for this event and hopes to fulfill three main

objectives: to remind students of their roots, culture and identity as a Singaporean; to honour the pioneer generation for their contributions; and to inspire students to be the pioneers of the next generation.

With a near-perfect Grade Point Average of 3.918, Janet is poised for her next challenge, at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, where she will be pursuing a Diploma in Accountancy. Her advice to her peers: “Never be afraid to ask for help! Many people may feel that asking for help is a sign of weakness. But to me, it is a sign of strength and courage! If anyone asks me for help, I will always be more than happy to oblige!”

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**Name** : Adalene Chua You Yan  
**Course** : *Higher Nitec* in Business Studies (Administration)  
**College** : ITE College Central

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### **Little Miss Sunshine**

Walking next to Adalene Chua on campus is like hanging out with a mini-celebrity – every few steps or so, someone would recognise her and give her a friendly wave or come up to her for a quick chat, and she would respond with the brightest of smiles.

“I’m no celebrity!” Adalene was quick to clarify, somewhat amused. “I just happen to know a lot of people through my many Co-curricular Activities (CCAs).”

Indeed, this dynamo of a girl was involved in numerous CCAs during her time in ITE. Not only was she part of the national and ITE tchoukball teams, she was also a member of the ITE Floorball Club and competed in track-and-field events.

Apart from sports, the National Youth Achievement Award (Gold) recipient immersed herself in community service and youth-related programmes. As a Project Panelist in the National Youth Council’s Young ChangeMakers programme from March 2014 to March 2015, Adalene assessed up to 12 project proposals a month, alongside working adults and professionals in various fields.

Despite her heavy CCA commitments, Adalene did not let up on her schoolwork. Never one to while away her time, Adalene made full use of her one-hour journey to and from school to revise lesson notes and go through project reports. It was this discipline and determination to do well that saw her graduate from her *Higher Nitec* in Business Studies (Administration) course with an enviable Grade Point Average score of 3.739.

Looking at Adalene's warm and cheerful personality, it is hard to imagine that the 19-year-old comes from a less-than-privileged background. Having both parents struck with chronic illnesses that required costly medical treatments, Adalene started working part-time at the age of 13 to ease her father's burden of providing for the family. "I worked three to four days a week, mostly after school and on weekends. There were times when I held two jobs concurrently," she shared.

Nevertheless, Adalene's challenging circumstances did not dampen her fervour for helping others. She was a peer mentor to at-risk youths at the Youth Guidance Outreach Services' (YGOS) Woodlands Centre, a drop-in facility for students in the neighbourhood. She had also devoted many weekends to giving free Mathematics tuition to primary school students who were receiving help from YGOS.

It comes as no surprise, then, that the former Riverside Secondary School student has set her sights on working in the youth sector, after she completes her Diploma in Business & Social Enterprise course at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Adalene affirmed, "I have overcome many challenges and I would like to share my experience with those who are younger than me. Ultimately, I hope to make a positive impact on their lives!"

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**Name** : Nur Khairiyah Bte Lukman  
**Course** : *Nitec* in Nursing  
**College** : ITE College East

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### **Never Too Late or Too Old to Learn**

“I believe that you’re never too late or too old to learn,” said 25-year-old Nur Khairiyah Bte Lukman. Coming from a challenging background, Khairiyah did not do well in school when she was younger. She 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 at the Singapore Cruise Centre.

After two years on the job, Khairiyah 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. Despite being a little older than her peers, at 23 years of age then, she was not deterred from learning and pursuing her dreams of becoming a nurse, a dream that she had since childhood.

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 is also an Eco-Ambassador in College.

Her participation in the Youth Expedition Project trip to Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, Indonesia was a pivotal one. The trip opened her eyes to the devastating effects humans had on the environment and how urgent measures were needed to protect the environment. What she learnt on the trip made her more determined to spread the message of environmental conservation further.

Besides participating in a slew of environmental activities, Khairiyah also actively promoted the use of recyclable materials to save Mother Earth. To raise awareness on the need to reduce waste, she introduced the “Bring Your Own Tumbler” project at the College to encourage students to bring their own tumblers instead of using disposable cups.

Khairiyah is an all-rounder who puts her best in everything she undertakes. Regardless of her heavy engagements in Co-Curricular Activities, she obtained a good cumulative Grade Point Average score of 3.83. True to her belief for life-long learning and her passion for the environment, Khairiyah will continue the pursuit of her dreams with a Diploma in Nursing, and her environmental cause, at Nanyang Polytechnic.

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