

## Javen Francis Koh Wei Yang

### **Nitec in Business Administration**

**ITE College Central**



## Lifting Lives

Javen grew up in a family that is active in philanthropy. Inspired by his family, he developed a strong interest in serving the community from young. This led him to volunteer at Lions Befrienders, a charity that provides care for seniors. He also joined ITE College Central's Rotaract Club, where he organised and participated in various community service projects.

As President of the Rotaract Club, he would broaden volunteering opportunities for his peers by encouraging them to participate in Lions Befrienders' community service projects. In school, Javen also actively helped his peers in their studies. He started an after-school revision programme with some classmates, where they would mentor those who need help in their schoolwork.

### **Guiding Light**

*"Although I did well in secondary school, I felt that I was lacking opportunities for personal development back then. At ITE, I really enjoyed what I was studying, and I was able to pursue my passion in community service. I also had exceptional lecturers at ITE, who really made the effort to connect with us and care for our well-being. One of them is Mr Zaki Ng. I remember an occasion when I was feeling burnt out from my multiple commitments, and he was there to provide support and advice for me. That meant a lot to me."*

### **After ITE**

Javen is pursuing a Diploma in Maritime Business at Singapore Polytechnic.

### **Top Achievements**

- Distinguishing himself as an exemplary all-rounder, Javen was a recipient of the Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award (2022).
- He was the champion of a speech competition organised by the Rotary Club of Singapore for ITE students, where he paid tribute to the hard work of frontline workers amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Javen led his schoolmates to raise almost \$1,000 for the Central Singapore Community Development Council's Children's Day celebrations by selling customised bracelets. The funds were used to purchase necessities for underprivileged children.
- He established a Youth Wing at Lions Befrienders to bring together like-minded youths with a passion in volunteering.



## Nurqistina Atiqah Binte Abu Bakar

### **Higher Nitec in Human Resource & Administration** **ITE College East**



## Aiming for the Courts

Fighting for justice in the courts has always been Nurqistina Atiqah Binte Abu Bakar's dream but her 'O' level Math grade did not meet the minimum requirement for the course of her choice at a polytechnic. Though she was offered a science-related course, Qistina chose to further her studies at ITE instead.

To build up her portfolio and make the best of her two years at ITE, Qistina seized every opportunity offered to her. Her commitment saw her participating in close to 50 college, community and national-level events, while maintaining a near-perfect Grade Point Average. During her internship, her outstanding performance impressed her employer and she emerged as the top intern of her batch in the company.

Though a longer route, the ITE education journey was a most enriching one for Qistina. More importantly, it gave her a second shot at pursuing her legal dreams – in which she was successful!

### **Network of Support**

*"I chose ITE because of the internship opportunities. I think internship is very important as it will give me a better sense of working life. The next best thing about ITE would be the amazing people I've met – my classmates, the caring lecturers, and my Student Council peers. They were always there to cheer me on and support me; I really appreciate and treasure them."*

### **After ITE**

Qistina is currently pursuing a diploma in Law & Management at Temasek Polytechnic. Inspired by the late criminal lawyer, Subhas Anandan, and his pro-bono cases, she hopes to work in the legal industry and make an impact in the community.

### **Top Achievements**

- Qistina gives her all in everything she does. This was duly recognised through several awards. She earned the Outstanding Graduate Award, CE Community Volunteerism Award and Lee Kuan Yew CCA Award in 2022, and the Service Star Diamond Award in 2021.
- Despite her demanding portfolio, Qistina's diligence in her studies saw her make the Director's List in 2020 and 2021.
- As President of the Student Council, Qistina was involved in or organised almost 50 events, including the Credit Suisse Mentoring Programme, ACE Programme, Singapore's Perspectives Conference and National Day Rally Dialogues.



## Ng Yeong Yee

### **Nitec in Travel & Tourism Services**

#### **ITE College West**



## Service Superstar

Since young, Ng Yeong Yee has always wanted to join the tourism industry. This ambition spurred her to become a certified Animal Trainer under the Animal Presentation Development Programme during her internship with Jurong Bird Park. While it normally takes six months for a full-time staff to complete the programme, Yeong Yee did it in half the time.

Driven by a strong passion for volunteerism, Yeong Yee also actively sought ways beyond her course to help others. As a team leader, facilitator and volunteer, she spearheaded several community service initiatives in school. Yeong Yee's exemplary leadership qualities also shone through during her active participation in various community activities. Her enthusiasm and dedication to take on any duties assigned impressed her lecturers and peers.

### **Reaching for her Goal**

*"As a student leader, it is fundamental to set clear goals to achieve what is desired. My internship has equipped me with real working experience. I learned how to communicate with people from all walks of life and of different age groups as well. I'm glad to have met many friends in ITE who share the same interest and passion I have in the tourism industry."*

### **Life after ITE**

Yeong Yee is currently pursuing a Diploma in Tourism and Resort Management at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. She aspires to be a motivational speaker to encourage individuals to expand their learning opportunities in achieving their goals.

### **Top Achievements**

- For her excellent contributions, academic performance and conduct, Yeong Yee attained several awards, including Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award 2022, Certificate of Merit (2021), 21st Century Star Award (2021), Edusave Character Award (2020) and EAGLES Award (2020 & 2021).
- Yeong Yee won the Gold Medal for the SBS SPEAK Cluster Competition and emerged as the Best Speaker in the SBS SPEAK Debating Challenge.
- Hardworking and motivated, Yeong Yee achieved a perfect GPA of 4.0. She was also on the Director's List in 2020 and 2021. This is on top of her active participation in the Student Council. As President, Yeong Yee led a project in hosting a motivational talk for her juniors on adjusting to home-based learning. She also led a team to conceptualise and create a Fort Canning virtual tour for the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council (VTC) counterparts under the Virtual Exchange Programme, which was co-organised by ITE and VTC.



# Muhammad Ezekeyle Ezra Olbrich Bin Wilfred John Olbrich

## **Nitec in Mechatronics & Robotics**

### **ITE College West**



## Living for Others

If there was a word to describe Muhammad Ezekeyle Ezra Olbrich Bin Wilfred John Olbrich, it is probably 'selfless'. In 2019, he saved a family from a fire in their home and received the SCDF's Community First Responder Award. He works part-time to support himself and still achieved a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. His quick thinking, tenacity and desire to help others set him apart from his peers. This is despite his immensely challenging beginnings.

Ezekeyle and his older brother grew up with their grandparents after his parents' divorce. To help with the family finances, he has been working part-time since he was in secondary school. In the day, he gives his all in school; come evening, Ezekeyle puts in five to six hours every weekday as a food delivery rider. On top of that, he is actively involved in campus and community activities, putting in time as a student mentor, ACE Achiever Club member, and Class Vice-Chairman. Truly, Ezekeyle is an inspiration to all!

### **Giving his All**

*"I want to do what I can to help people. I excel for the sake of others. My desire is to be a source of motivation for my family and friends, by living as a good role model. There is no room to give up. If I give up, who is going to care for my family?"*

### **After ITE**

Ezekeyle is currently pursuing a *Higher Nitec* in Mechatronics Engineering course at ITE despite qualifying for polytechnic admission. He believes the hands-on learning style in ITE will help him build a strong engineering foundation. He plans to be an engineer specialising in robotics in the future.

### **Top Achievements**

- Ezekeyle was awarded the SCDF Community First Responder Award in 2019 for rescuing a neighbour from an e-bike fire in their home.
- He has also received several other awards, such as the 4PM BESTARI Award (2021), Keppel Care Foundation Merit Award (2020 and 2021), National Youth Achievement Award Bronze (2019), Edusave Character and Merit Awards (2020 and 2021), and was on the Directors' List for all semesters. For his excellent performance, Ezekeyle was awarded the Tay Eng Soon Gold Medal Award at the ITE Graduation Ceremony 2022.



## Damien Loo Yi Heng

**Nitec in Electronics, Computer Networking  
& Communications**

**ITE College Central**



# Nurturing Dreams, Cultivating Success

Damien has two areas of interest – aquaculture and hydroponics. These shaped his dream of setting up his own aquaponics farm, where fish and plants are grown together.

Damien enrolled in ITE's *Nitec* in Electronics, Computer Networking and Communications course, as he believed it would equip him with relevant skills to implement useful technologies for his future farming business. His interest in plants led him to join ITE College Central's Greenery Club, where he rose to become its Vice President.

Motivated by a desire to constantly improve himself and realise his dream, Damien excelled in his studies at ITE. He also actively participated in numerous competitions and leadership programmes to better himself.

### **Personal Breakthroughs**

*"When I entered ITE, I had the goal of achieving my potential. I am thankful to ITE for helping me to realise this goal. My lecturers gave me many opportunities to participate in various competitions and professional development programmes. I grew and learned a lot from these experiences. They helped to boost my confidence and hone my presentation skills, which are very important for professional success. I never had such opportunities before joining ITE."*

### **After ITE**

Damien is pursuing a Diploma in Landscape Design & Horticulture at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

### **Top Achievements**

- Recognised for his all-round excellence, Damien won the 2022 Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award. He graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0 and was in the Director's List for all terms from 2020 to 2021.
- Damien led his classmates to clinch the Diamond Award in the 2021 Community in Bloom Awards, a competition by the National Parks Board which recognises excellence in gardening efforts by community groups.



## Tan Yuan Tian

### Nitec in Mechanical Technology

#### ITE College East



## Engineered for Solutions

An engineer at heart and by training, Yuan Tian considers himself fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved in projects beyond his scope of studies. The exposure to the various competitions and projects made Yuan Tian step out of his comfort zone as he had to learn to interact with people from diverse backgrounds, such as meeting stroke patients to understand their needs and from there, solve problems and create solutions for them.

These 'extra-curricular activities' also helped him hone his business skills. While participating in ITE Makerfest Challenge 2021, Yuan Tian had to learn and apply entrepreneurship skills such as budgeting, marketing, sales and more – areas which are unfamiliar for an engineering student like him. These experiences made Yuan Tian's ITE journey a fulfilling and enriching one as it gave him a better understanding of what he could achieve by applying the skills that he had learnt to solve real problems – something which he is very proud of.

#### Skilled to Help

*"When I first joined ITE, I didn't expect that I would be able to apply my engineering skills to solve real problems for others. I'm very glad to have the opportunities to be involved in various projects and competitions. They really opened my eyes and motivated me to aim higher in my studies and beyond. I would like to thank my class advisor, Mr Chua Zhong Yang, for his unwavering support and guidance which gave me confidence and helped me mature both academically and holistically."*

#### After ITE

Yuan Tian is currently pursuing a Diploma in Industrial & Product Design at Temasek Polytechnic.

#### Top Achievements

- Yuan Tian received several accolades for displaying skills mastery in his projects, such as the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award 2021, Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors' Award 2021 and top prize in the ITE Makerfest Enterprise Challenge 2021.
- He was in the Director's List for all terms from 2020 to 2021, and graduated top of his engineering cohort in 2021 with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0.
- Aside from his academic achievements, Yuan Tian finds time to engage in community work and has participated in the Very Special Arts Singapore programme where he designed and produced tote bags and cards for special needs students.



# Ng Aik Hong Desmond

## Nitec in Nursing

### ITE College East



# Learning for Life

A firm believer in lifelong learning, Desmond demonstrated this by successfully going through three very different careers. He first started out as a pastry chef. He then made the switch to do administrative work, despite having zero knowledge on how to use a computer. He learnt on the job and stayed in that line for 19 years until he decided to make yet another switch – this time to nursing. Inspired by the nurses' professionalism and care they showed his grandmother, Desmond enrolled for the full-time nursing course under the Professional Conversion Programme in 2020.

At 50, Desmond was more than twice the age of most of his classmates, but that did not deter him from having an active campus life! He was diligent in his work, putting in extra effort so he did not fall behind. He also participated in several community activities and was known as the 'dad of the class'. Today, he is enjoying his third career as an Enrolled Nurse, proving age is no barrier when it comes to learning!

### All in the Mind

*"It takes courage to switch careers, but I want to challenge myself and learn new things. I was initially afraid I could not catch up. I only studied up till 'N' levels, so I had to put in three times the effort! But the teachers at ITE taught in a well-structured manner. As long as I put in the effort, I could follow. I want to be a nurse for as long as I can."*

### After ITE

Desmond is currently enjoying his new career as an Enrolled Nurse at Singapore General Hospital.

### Top Achievements

- Desmond's extra effort in his studies saw him being placed on the Director's List for two semesters in 2020. He also earned the Edusave Character Award (2020), Edusave Merit Bursary and Certificate of Academic Achievement (2020) and Edusave Award for Achievement, Good Leadership and Service (2020).
- He is also an active member of the Rotary Club and was appointed Vice-President of Community Services in 2021. Desmond was awarded the Platinum CCA Award and Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award (2021) for his many contributions.
- During clinical attachments, Desmond was self-motivated and demonstrated passion to improve his skills. His ability to apply his skills showed in the excellent care he provides to his patients, which impressed his supervisors.



## Fatin Mayasari Bte Amran

### **Nitec in Video Production**

#### **ITE College Central**



## Picture of Positivity

Fatin Mayasari Bte Amran is a storyteller, except she does so through music and moving pictures. While music is her first love, video production was something she grew to enjoy while at ITE. Both, however, are her avenues for expressing herself.

During her two years at ITE, Fatin gave her all. Her commitment and excellent work attitude shone through in her co-curricular activities and class work – traits which earned her praises at the company she interned at.

Well-liked by her peers, Fatin does not hesitate to guide or push her classmates to do better. When a classmate displayed signs of depression, Fatin was there to support her mentally and academically. Today, Fatin continues to check in on her and celebrate each little step towards recovery. For her diligence, spirit of excellence and positivity, Fatin is indeed a role model for peers.

### **Think Positive**

*“My best memory of ITE would be my Final Year Project. I learnt a lot about myself and my way of thinking during that period. The project basically summed up my past two years. If things don’t turn out well, or it is something that I had not envisioned, being able to change my perception can help turn things around for the better!”*

### **After ITE**

Fatin is currently pursuing a Diploma in Media Post-Production at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. She would like to explore a career in the media industry upon graduation.

### **Top Achievements**

- Despite studying at ITE College Central, Fatin rose to become Section Leader and Vice President of the ITE West Concert Band – a band she first joined as an honorary member while still in secondary school. She used her video production skills to put together a series of band recordings.
- Fatin was also part of the ACE programme and was involved in several community events where she imparted the skills she learnt to secondary school students and Institute of Mental Health patients.
- Her excellent academic performance saw her graduate with a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. She was on the Director’s List every semester.
- The multi-talented Fatin is also a songwriter (since she was 12!) but was too shy to showcase her work. One of her originals was featured in her Final Year Project.



## Mohamad Hilman B Mohamad Hatta

### Higher Nitec in IT Systems & Networks

#### ITE College West



## IT's a Success

It might have taken Mohamad Hilman B Mohamad Hatta a few years to discover his potential, but those bumpy years were necessary for Hilman to grow into the man he is today. Hilman professed feeling lost and lacking in motivation at that time. It was during National Service that he decided it was time for him to do something to better himself. He enrolled in an Information Technology course at ITE as the industry was booming at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Though it was an entirely new field for Hilman, he took up the challenge nonetheless and discovered he had a flair for it!

While he perfected his IT skills, Hilman also took the chance to feed his passion for social work by taking on leadership positions in the Service Ambassador Club and Student Volunteer Corp and participating in several community projects. On top of that, Hilman was active in other college projects and events, and even held a part-time job to finance his own expenses! For excelling in so many areas, Hilman is most deserving of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal Award.

#### A New Hope

*"I am not your regular success story. Returning to ITE at 21 to start a totally new course was nerve-wrecking but not everyone is gifted with a second chance in life, and I was determined to make the most of mine."*

*"My journey in ITE has been nothing short of life transforming. Apart from discovering my innate passion in IT and winning all these awards and accolades, my greatest takeaway is this new ME – a Hilman who will not tire or find a shortcut to excellence but will persevere and always give my best for family, friends, and country!"*

#### After ITE

Hilman is currently pursuing a Diploma in Information Technology at Singapore Polytechnic. He hopes to marry his IT skills with his passion for social work in the future.

#### Top Achievements

- For demonstrating excellence in academia, community service and leadership, Hilman received more than 10 awards and accolades! These include the Government Investment Corporation (GIC) Study Grant 2021, 4PM Bestari Award 2021, Lembaga Biasiswa Kenangan Maulud Academic Excellence Award 2021 and Lee Kuan Yew Model Student Award 2022.
- Hilman was a natural leader, having helmed the Service Ambassador Club (2020-2021), Student Volunteer Corps (2021) and his Class EXCO (2020-2021). He was also a Team Leader in the ACE Club and was chosen to participate in the US Embassy Alumni Mentoring Programme in 2021.



## Nur Sofiyah Bte Zainalabidin

### Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology

ITE College Central



## Carving her Niche

When Sofiyah was in secondary school, her interest was in the arts. Engineering was a field which she did not expect to be in. After unsuccessful attempts in entering ITE's design courses, she took a leap of faith and decided to enrol in the *Nitec* in Digital & Precision Engineering course. With time, she grew to discover her niche in the Precision Engineering field.

After completing her *Nitec* course, Sofiyah enrolled in the Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology course to deepen her engineering skills. Despite being in a male-dominated environment, she did not let that affect her self-belief and determination to succeed. Through perseverance and hard work, Sofiyah emerged as the top graduate of her Technical Engineer Diploma course.

### Finding Gratitude

*"There were many people who helped me in my journey at ITE. I had supportive classmates, and we helped each other to succeed. The close bonds that I had with my lecturers also made a big difference. They were very encouraging, and I could always approach them if I had doubts or needed any assistance. I will never forget all these friendships that I made at ITE. Moving forward, I wish to continue upgrading myself to make my family proud. They are my biggest motivation."*

### After ITE

Sofiyah is working as an Associate Engineer at manufacturing company, ASM Assembly Systems Singapore Pte Ltd, where she conducts quality checks of machines.

### Top Achievements

- Diligent and motivated, Sofiyah graduated with a perfect Grade Point Average (GPA) score of 4.0. For her strong academic excellence, Sofiyah was awarded the Gold Course Medal and Diploma with Merit for the Technical Engineer Diploma in Machine Technology course.
- Sofiyah won the Best Presenter Award at the 2021 Sembcorp Marine Green Wave Environmental Care Competition for schools, where her team presented an idea of converting vibrations on MRT platforms into energy that could power trains.



## Tan Wen Yao

### Technical Diploma in Culinary Arts

ITE College West



## Savouring the Fruit of Success

After his 'O' level examinations, Tan Wen Yao took the unconventional choice of taking a gap year to figure out what he wanted to study next. For a year, he worked part-time in areas like event management and banquet service. He eventually made up his mind to learn culinary skills.

Wen Yao applied for both the full-time and traineeship Western Culinary Arts courses at ITE. He was offered a place in the traineeship course, and he took it up without hesitation. Every week, he worked five days at Goodwood Park Hotel, and attended classes at ITE for an additional day. Wen Yao revelled in the intensive schedule and chose to deepen his skills further via the Technical Diploma (TD) in Culinary Arts course as he wanted to learn French cooking techniques.

He took the TD in unprecedented times during the pandemic and saw how restaurants adapted to changing dining regulations. He also savoured the opportunity to learn the different aspects of running a business. Wen Yao excelled and emerged as the valedictorian for the TD course this year.

### Cooking from the Heart

*"I have always found it important to find out what I love to do and to do what I love. This is the reason for having a gap year. I did not want to rush to study and start work without clarity. I wanted to make sure I was on the right path for myself. Cooking is special to me. Food brings people together and I often cook to gather my family over meal. I want to cook for a career, and I hope to learn to cook even more cuisines on top of western cooking."*

### After ITE

Wen Yao is currently a Demi Chef De Partie at Le Bistrot Du Sommelier.

### Top Achievements

- As part of his entrepreneurship project, Wen Yao and his team set up a stall at Timbre+. They took care of all aspects of the business, from the concept and finances to the menu. The changing dining regulations presented challenges, but the team managed to cover costs and bring in a profit.
- For his final-year project, Wen Yao and his course mates developed a vegetarian restaurant concept that incorporated sustainable practices. Their project won praise from a chef of a Michelin-starred restaurant.
- Wen Yao's internship was at a three-Michelin starred restaurant, Odette. Three months into his attachment, the 'Circuit Breaker' restrictions kicked in. He personally saw how Odette responded to the changes and it has exposed him to how businesses can overcome such challenges.



## Alex Poh Chee Chen

### Work-Study Diploma in Logistics & Supply Chain Management ITE College East



## Back to School

For over 30 years, Alex Poh built a career with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). It was a job he enjoyed but one thing bothered him – his academic qualifications were stagnant for three decades. Though the SAF offered him opportunities to upgrade his skills, he declined due to work and family commitments.

When the Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) programme was launched, it offered Alex what he wanted – recognition of his work experience, a dedicated study day without disrupting his work or family schedule, and skills upgrading. He grabbed the chance. During the course, Alex gained a deeper understanding in his field, enabling him to better contribute and work more effectively. For his impressive performance in class and at work, and the tenacity and leadership demonstrated during the course, Alex was awarded the Singapore National Employers Federation Gold Medal.

### Positive Learning Experience

*"I may have missed out on furthering my studies in my younger days, but the WSDip enabled me to re-join, re-learn, and re-experience studying again. It was truly challenging and tough when the course started. The thought of going back to school and coping with school work after 30 years bothered me quite a fair bit. But with the support and understanding from my family, batch mates, superiors and lecturers, my learning journey was a very fruitful and enriching one."*

### After ITE

The skills Alex picked up during his WSDip, and his stellar performance during the training, have given his superiors the confidence to assign him more responsibilities. Previously a System Development Warrant Officer, he has since been appointed Officer Commanding (Designate) for Transport Centre (North), 1st SAF Transport Battalion. Alex has also been appointed Combat Service Support Warrant Officer of the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Coordination Centre, on top of his primary role.

### Top Achievements

- Alex was an exemplary trainee both on campus and at work. For his excellent work attitude and outstanding performance, he was awarded the Gold Course Medal for his WSDip course in 2021.
- During his training, Alex received The Letter of Commendation from his Commander in 2020.
- The WSDip gave Alex a wider perspective on the changing trends in supply chain management and kept him abreast on the latest in innovation and automation in the logistics industry. This knowledge helped sharpen Alex's problem-solving skills, enabling him to optimise operational processes and work more effectively.



## Hilman B Mansoor

### Work-Study Diploma in Security Systems Engineering

ITE College West



## Success Secured

Hilman Bin Mansoor started working after graduating with a *Nitec* in Multimedia Technology in 2012. His good performance at work prompted his then-employer, a Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) partner, to offer him the opportunity to upgrade via the WSDip programme in 2018. Enticed by the idea of being able to deepen his skills and advance in his career concurrently, Hilman jumped at the chance.

During his training, Hilman demonstrated that he was highly dependable and responsible, able to take up challenging tasks and lead his team with projects. A fast learner, Hilman applied what he learnt in new projects and delivered good results. In 2021, Hilman graduated from the WSDip course as the top performer. For his outstanding performance, he was rewarded with a promotion and salary increment.

### A Golden Opportunity

*"The WSDip experience was a great one. I came into this course with little to no knowledge of security systems and I graduated with a more refined skillset and a lot more field knowledge."*

### After ITE

Hilman was promoted to Systems Engineer after completion of his WSDip course. In January, Hilman joined Global Cyber Security Service Pte Ltd as Associate Security Engineer.

### Top Achievements

- Hilman's impressive performance both in class and on the job saw him flourishing in the course. As the course's top performer, he was awarded the Gold Course Medal in 2021.
- His positive work attitude and easy-going nature made him a natural choice to appear as one of the profiles in a SkillsFuture Singapore video to promote lifelong learning in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.
- Hilman's work and WSDip experience has allowed him to expand his horizons and advance in his chosen career.



## Suria Bte Saad

### Work-Study Diploma in Community Engagement & Development ITE College Central



## Opportunities to Shine

The last time Suria Bte Saad was in school was almost 20 years ago. The ITE graduate seized the chance to upskill when her company, a Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) partner, offered staff the opportunity to take on WSDip training. It was an eye-opening experience for her, coming back to ITE after two decades. Aside from the upgraded facilities, Suria appreciated that there is a lot more hands-on and on-the-job training now, which excited and motivated her.

Though it was challenging for the working mother-of-two, the WSDip also highlighted qualities she possessed, which caught the eye of her supervisors at work. As part of the course, Suria had to fulfil certain tasks for her projects and she demonstrated that she was able to apply her knowledge effectively. As a result, Suria was promoted twice during the course duration! Today, she enjoys her added role as a mentor and is looking to pursue a part-time degree in social services.

### Seize the Day

*"If you have the opportunity to upgrade, take it! Once you are on board, it will motivate you to seek more knowledge. For me, I became more willing to learn new things. I applied what I studied at my workplace and more opportunities opened up for me when my supervisors saw what I was capable of."*

### After ITE

Suria is now an Assistant Centre Manager at the Jurong West Sports Centre and Hockey Village @ Boon Lay. She is currently pursuing a Continuing Education and Training (CET) module at the Social University of Social Sciences.

### Top Achievements

- Suria demonstrated leadership, resourcefulness and determination during her WSDip training by going the extra mile in everything she does. She is well-liked by her classmates, often taking initiative to conduct team-building activities.
- Suria was consistent in producing excellent work. She secured a Grade Point Average of 3.527 and was the Gold Course Medal winner of her WSDip course in 2021. Motivated by her good results, Suria is looking to deepen her skills further by taking on CET modules that will contribute towards earning a part-time degree in social services. This is on top of the Degree in Islamic Studies she is pursuing for her personal growth.
- As a WSDip graduate with stellar work performance, Suria now has the added role of assessing and supervising a new batch of WSDip trainees at Sport Singapore. She views this as a chance for her to give back and to inspire others.



## Laurence Oh Tiong Yaw

### **Higher Nitec in Technology (Electronics Engineering)**

**ITE College Central**



## Growing with ITE

After completing his Industrial Technician Certificate in Mechanical Engineering in 1998, Laurence Oh decided to sign on with the Army. As a technician, he was constantly learning new skills for his work. Between 2002 and 2007, Laurence's strong belief in building up his fundamentals led him to pursue two Automotive Technology courses and an Electronics (Computer & Networking) course at ITE.

In 2019, Laurence pursued the Higher Nitec in Technology (Electronics Engineering) course, after his superiors recommended he upgrade his skills following a promotion. He chose to return to ITE as he wanted a stronger foundation before pursuing a diploma in the same field. Drawing upon 20 years of technical and engineering experience, Laurence diligently completed his assignments, even taking on work that is not a project requirement. The effort he put into his course was an inspiration to his peers!

### **The Learning Never Ends**

*"Combining the strong foundation I have gained in ITE in various fields, and my years of work experience, I am better able to apply my skills and excel at work. Learning has no limits and I hope more of my peers and colleagues will be inspired to keep their knowledge current for lifelong employability."*

### **After ITE**

Laurence is doing well as an Engineer with Headquarters Maintenance and Engineering Support Command, in the Singapore Armed Forces. He is now ready to deepen his skills further, and has applied for the Diploma in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Republic Polytechnic.

### **Top Achievements**

- Laurence produced extraordinary work for his course assignments and gave his all during lessons, even after an exhausting day at work. For his commitment, perseverance and good academic results, he was awarded the e2i Gold Medal Award.
- For one of his projects, Laurence designed and fabricated a Printed Circuit Board. He gave the school a few of such circuit boards, including a fully assembled one complete with components and Raspberry Pi (a mini computer). He did so to inspire the other part-time students in their studies.



## How Jia Jun Wilson

### Higher Nitec in Electronics Engineering

#### ITE College East



## At Home with Technology

How Jia Jun Wilson firmly believes that technology is key to improving lives. Growing up, his father often discussed the latest technology trends and statistics with him. When he needed to refine his soldering skills in ITE, his mother gave him tips on how to do it better. He is perfectly at home with the use of technology and working hands-on on gadgets.

Passionate about the use of electronics and Internet of Things, Wilson cherishes every opportunity to pass on his knowledge. As President of the ITE College East Flying Club, he taught the community, as well as his schoolmates, drone programming skills. He also represented ITE and led the presentation on drone technology during two ministerial visits. Besides skills, Wilson also learned the importance of trying new things and persevering through failure at ITE. Today he is expanding his skills so he can use them to better the lives of others.

### Technology for the Better

*"So much of our lives are powered by technology. Technology is here today, and it is the future, so why not be a part of it? I believe that with technology, I can give back to others and better their lives. I also believe that we must not give up easily. This may seem simple on the surface. However, when the going gets tough, it is truly difficult to persevere. By not giving up, we can give ourselves another chance to do better."*

### After ITE

Wilson is currently taking the Diploma in Computer Engineering course at Temasek Polytechnic. He hopes to be part of a company manufacturing consistently reliable tech products that help others as they go about their lives.

### Top Achievements

- Wilson built a strong skills foundation at ITE, achieving a perfect Grade Point Average of 4.0. He also achieved a plethora of awards, including the Rotary-ITE Student Excellent Award (2021) by the Rotary Club of Bugis Junction, ITE Gold Service Star Award (2021) and EAGLES Award (2021).
- He joined The Sixth Sense Competition, organised by SICK Sensor Intelligence, in 2021 and 2022. He won the Commendation Award in 2021 and the Silver Prize in 2022 for his projects. In 2022, he was selected to present his project for the Award Ceremony. This achievement is particularly special to him because he saw how his hard work had paid off and how he had improved during his second try.
- Wilson was also active in community work. This included raising funds for the needy under the 3M Moves programme, making masks for the elderly, and packing goodie bags for needy students under the GIC Sparks programme, and gathering rice for needy families under the Walk for Rice programme in 2020 and 2021.