

LEE KUAN YEW CCA AWARD 2018

RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Cook Elray Danish Bin Cook Reuben James

Course: Nitec in Aerospace Technology

College: ITE College Central

Passion + Determination = Success

Elray's mother is his greatest role model and motivation to succeed. Having seen her strength in raising him singlehandedly, Elray became inspired to make the best out of his life, and do his mother proud.

A natural born leader, Elray served as the President of the ITE College Central Student Council. Despite his quiet demeanour, he earned respect for his strong leadership and dedication to his duties.

Elray was also well regarded for his humble and compassionate personality. He would readily mentor or support his peers in need. He also actively participated in community service projects, such as volunteering at a camp for disadvantaged children.

From the Heart

"When you are doing something you like, something that you have passion for, you will give your 100 per cent and not give up. I see it as a personal responsibility to ensure that I always give my best because I want to motivate my peers. I want to show my peers that if I can do it, they can, too!"

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic.
- Aspires to forge a career in the aviation industry as a licensed aircraft engineer.

Top Achievements

- A highly driven student, Elray realised the goal he set for himself when he entered ITE by achieving a GPA score of 4.0.
- He emerged as the Top Graduate in ITE College Central's School of Engineering in 2017. He was also in the Director's List in 2016.
- For being an inspiring role model, Elray received the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2017.
- He was awarded the Outstanding All-Rounder Student (OARS) Award by North West Community Development Council.

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Name: Amanda Neo Yan Lin
Course: Nitec in Business Services
College: ITE College East

Just Do It!

Amanda believes in keeping a positive outlook, and making the best out of what life has to offer.

When she was first elected as the President of the ITE College East Student Council, she struggled to get the support of some members. She was undeterred, and eventually earned their respect with her dedication and “leading by example” leadership style.

Amanda also led the volleyball team as the Captain. Being a volleyball enthusiast, she was devastated when she sustained a permanent knee injury in a volleyball tournament. With her teacher’s encouragement, she picked herself up, and continued to mentor her teammates as Vice-Captain of the team.

From the Heart

“After sustaining a permanent injury, I was sad because I knew that I will not be able to play competitively anymore. However, I also realised that I do not have to play the sport to remain in the sport. Being a qualified beach volleyball referee, I could still be active in volleyball by being a referee and gain new learning experiences.

You have to face your handicaps, do not try to hide them. Instead, develop something new and better out of them.”

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Sports Coaching at Republic Polytechnic.
- Aspires to teach sport and physical education in the future.

Top Achievements

- Amanda led her volleyball team to second place in the ITESC Volleyball Tournament 2017.
- As a qualified beach volleyball referee, she has refereed at the 29th Southeast Asia Beach Volleyball Championship in 2017.
- Amanda represented ITE and Singapore in the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths (JENESYS) in Japan. JENESYS is an exchange programme that aims to promote friendship between Japanese and overseas youths.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Melvin Ang Kang Rong
Course: Nitec in Travel & Tourism Services
College: ITE College West

Music for the Soul

Melvin has been in a band throughout his schooling years, playing mainly the trumpet. He not only loves music, but also found strength from music.

When Melvin suffered panic attacks in secondary school, he would play the trumpet to ease his anxiety. Music became the remedy, which nursed him back to good health.

At ITE, Melvin joined the Yamato Wind Symphony to pursue his passion. It was eventually renamed the West Symphonia. For his strong leadership qualities, Melvin was elected as the President of the band. He showed great care for his band members, often taking time to counsel those with personal challenges.

From the Heart

“When I first joined Yamato Wind Symphony, it was difficult to cope with my studies while juggling training and performances. At the same time, I was playing in community bands, where the standard of the performers was higher. I struggled to catch up with them, and often felt demoralised. Despite these challenges, I motivated myself to stay positive and continue pushing myself to do my best.

The worst mistake you can make is to give up and not challenge yourself for fear of failure.”

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Integrated Events Management at Republic Polytechnic.
- Being a hands-on person who enjoys formulating new ideas, Melvin aspires to work in events management in the future.

Top Achievements

- Melvin excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 3.93. He was consistently in the Director’s List for all school terms.
- He led the West Symphonia to clinch a Silver Award and a Distinction for Ensemble playing at the National Band Competition 2016.
- Melvin has played in established community bands, including the Kim Seng Wind Symphony, Audiolmage Wind Ensemble and the Singapore Wind Symphony Youth Winds.