

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2018

RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Aloysius Moh Soon Kiat
Course: Nitec in Aerospace Avionics
College: ITE College Central

Inspired by Love, Driven for Success

Aloysius is the only child of a single mother, who raised him single-handedly. His father left them shortly after his birth. Life was difficult, and his mother had to take on multiple jobs to support the family. While she earned little, she was determined to raise Aloysius within her own means.

His mother's strength and determination to persevere through hard times moved Aloysius, and inspired him to be strong, positive and driven in life.

Having received help from the community, Aloysius understands how much kind gestures could mean to those in need. He is committed to serving the community and making a positive difference in people's lives.

From the Heart

"My mother is my biggest role model and source of strength. I thought to myself – if she can overcome immense difficulties in life to raise me, there should not be any challenge that I cannot overcome.

If there are any challenges that come your way, do not be discouraged. It is up to you to decide whether you want to overcome these."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at Singapore Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be an aircraft engineer, with a dream of being a pilot.

Top Achievements

- Aloysius excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0.
- He was selected to represent ITE and Singapore at the India-ASEAN Youth Summit 2017, where he gave a presentation and was featured in Indian media.
- Aloysius was chosen to represent his College at the SafeYouth@Work Congress 2017, where he exchanged ideas with youth from around the world on improving workplace safety.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Brenda Mok Kit Yu
Course: Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound)
College: ITE College West

Hitting the Right Notes

Brenda started playing the flute and piccolo at eight years old. It was her childhood dream to stand on a podium, and lead a band as a conductor one day. That dream became a reality at ITE.

Brenda was entrusted to lead a 30-member band as the Concert Master of the ITE College West Symphonic Band. She led the band in numerous musical performances in school and community events.

Despite her packed schedule, Brenda actively volunteered in community service projects. These included a trip to Sri Lanka to educate less privileged communities about drug abuse, as well as choreographing musical performances at the community centre.

From the Heart

“My two years in ITE have enriched my growth, both as a musician and as a person. I have learnt to be resilient, think out of the box, and manage my time effectively. These are life skills, which I believe will be useful to me in the future workplace, and as a musician.”

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Arts and Theatre Management at Republic Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be a lighting engineer who creates a positive theatre experience for people.
- Plans to grow her passion in music by joining different bands and gaining varied learning experiences.

Top Achievements

- Brenda led the ITE College West Symphonic Band to clinch the Silver Award at the National Band Competition 2016.
- For her excellent service contributions and good character, she received the ITE Service Star Diamond Award in 2017 and the Edusave Character Award in 2016.
- Brenda was awarded the Tharman Shanmugaratnam Book Prize in 2017, which recognises students in Taman Jurong who have excelled in academic, leadership, and community service areas.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Koh Zhan Wah Christien
Course: Nitec in Infocomm Technology (Mobile Networks & Applications)
College: ITE College West

Inspiring Hope, Realising Dreams

To Christien, ITE is a place of hope – one where students can grow and turn their dreams into reality. In the same way, he wants to give hope to others.

Helping the needy is part of a family business for Christien. He helps his family at their shop that sells crafts created by people with special needs. Active in community service, Christien believes that no segment in society should be neglected. He aspires to help those with special needs adapt and feel included in Singapore's Smart Nation movement.

It is Christien's greatest joy to ignite hope in others, especially the underprivileged, and inspire them to realise their dreams in life.

From the Heart

"Time is precious. I only had two years in ITE and I treasure every moment of it. My experience at ITE gave me my sense of purpose - to build up my skills, pursue my dreams, and help others find the light in their lives."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Information Technology at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.
- Dreams of working at Google in the future. He is drawn to how the company's products seem to make life better for people, which aligns with his personal drive to help those around him.

Top Achievements

- A diligent student, Christien excelled academically. He achieved a GPA score of 4.0.
- Christien and his team mates developed a "People Sensor System" which clinched them the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award in 2017.
- He led his team to clinch second prize in the tertiary category of the National Science Experiment Big Data Challenge 2016.
- Christien organised the kNOw Cleaners Day, where he led a team to raise funds that were used to purchase hampers for cleaners on campus.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: K. Jagateesvaran Rajoo
Course: Nitec in Infocomm Technology (Networking & Systems Administration)
College: ITE College Central

Drawing Strength from Adversity

Jagateesvaran is the only child of a single mother. The passing of his father caused great financial difficulty for his family. Besides financial issues, Jagateesvaran also struggled with learning due to dyslexia.

Despite these challenges, Jagateesvaran was determined to turn his life around for the better. He would read as many books as he could, and practise speaking with his mother and friends.

Jagateesvaran also found strength from the help his family received from community groups, which inspired him to help others through community service. Using his programming knowledge, he even conducted a free workshop teaching Java programming to the public!

From the Heart

"It does not matter where you start from. If someone like me who faced a lot of difficulties can find success, you can do it, too, if you put your heart into it. The only person who can really help you, is yourself."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Game Development & Technology at Nanyang Polytechnic.
- Aspires to teach programming at ITE in the future.

Top Achievements

- Jagateesvaran excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0 and becoming the top student of his cohort. He was also in the Director's List in 2016 and 2017.
- For his excellent service contributions, he won the ITE Service Star Gold and Diamond Awards in 2016 and 2017.
- With his inspirational leadership qualities, Jagateesvaran was selected as the President of the Bridge Leaders Club, a CCA dedicated to community service.
- Showcasing a game application for dementia patients, he led his team to clinch first prize at the 2nd International Convention on Vocational Student Innovation Project in Thailand.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Marvin Chew Shao Long
Course: *Higher Nitec* in Event Management
College: ITE College Central

Personal Breakthroughs at ITE

Through varied experiences at ITE, Marvin grew in confidence and resilience. He was well regarded as a caring leader, who often mentored his classmates who struggled to cope with their studies.

Beyond school contributions, Marvin also showed compassion for the less fortunate in the community. He regularly volunteers his time to befriend underprivileged children and youth at Beyond Social Services, a charity organisation.

Having made personal breakthroughs at ITE, Marvin hopes to inspire others to find the best in themselves and realise their goals too.

From the Heart

“One key achievement for me was when I led a team to participate at the Singapore MICE Challenge in 2017. We emerged as champions, beating other teams from the polytechnics and a university. It was a gruelling experience that pushed me to my limits, but we proved that ITE students can hold our own too.”

This is one example of an experience at ITE that has expanded my horizons and helped me to achieve several breakthroughs. As long as we are willing to step up, our lecturers will be there to support and enrich our journeys.”

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Business Management at Nanyang Polytechnic.
- Dreams of being an entrepreneur one day.

Top Achievements

- An all-rounded and driven student, Marvin excelled academically. He achieved a GPA score of 3.902.
- He spearheaded a team which emerged Champion at the Singapore MICE Challenge 2017, a national level competition for tertiary students.
- As the Project Lead for the Entrepreneurship Club, Marvin led his team members to sell affordable clothes, and broke even after half a year. The team contributed its first \$200 of profit to the ITE Endowment Fund.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Muhammad Shazuan Bin Shiraj Abdullah
Course: Nitec in Community Care & Social Services
College: ITE College East

A Voice for the Vulnerable

Many people recognise Muhammad Shazuan Bin Shiraj Abdullah as the lively and high-spirited emcee at College events. Few would know that his confidence in life was hard earned. Growing up, Shazuan went through a series of disruptive events, including being bullied, transferring schools, and adjusting to a single-parent family.

Shazuan overcame these adversities, and became inspired to follow his mother's footsteps in pursuing a career in social work. At ITE, he actively volunteered to organise events for community groups. With the help of his lecturer, he also found his confidence in public speaking by joining the Speakers' Society.

From the Heart

"If I was not in ITE, I would not have had the chance to be involved in so many meaningful activities. I have proven to my mother and relatives that this is the best choice for me.

My ultimate aim is to be in social service. Like my mother, I want to look beyond my struggles to help others in need. As long as you have the passion and drive, coupled with hard work, you can succeed too."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Social Sciences (Social Work) at Nanyang Polytechnic.
- Aspires to work in the social services sector and mentor youths.

Top Achievements

- Shazuan was the first runner-up in the YMCA Plain English Speaking Awards (PESA) 2017, a national public speaking competition for students from junior colleges, polytechnics and Integrated Programme schools. He was the first ITE student in 31 years to reach the finals.
- Shazuan was also the champion of the ITE College East Public Speaking Competition in 2017.
- He also excelled academically, achieving a GPA score of 4.0.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Puvanaswaran S/O Manikam
Course: Nitec in Applied Food Science
College: ITE College East

Duty to Family, Care for Others

When Puvanaswaran was young, he mixed with bad company and often got into trouble. He was indifferent towards his family's difficult circumstances after his father lost his job.

Puvanaswaran became inspired to change himself after listening to a talk by a police officer, who similarly underwent a rebellious phase as a young boy. When Puvanaswaran's mother had a stroke, he realised that he has the duty to care for his family. It also motivated him to do good for others.

Puvanaswaran actively volunteers in community projects, which have included food delivery to needy families. He finds happiness and meaning in giving back to the community.

From the Heart

"Growing up, my family received a lot of support from the community, including students. They would give us food, which meant a lot to us in those difficult times. Having benefited from their help, I understand how much it means to receive assistance in times of difficulty. This motivates me to help needy families and give back to the community."

Life after ITE

- Will be pursuing a Diploma in Integrated Events Management at Republic Polytechnic after he completes his NS.
- Aspires to be a Prison Officer who can help to rehabilitate inmates and guide them towards a second chance in life.

Top Achievements

- His GPA score of 3.935 makes him one of the top academic achievers in his course.
- He was one of the top five finalists for the National Young Leader Award 2017, which recognises young leaders, who show conviction in their pursuits.
- Despite his weakness in public speaking, he conducted a briefing for mentors from Credit Suisse to improve his public speaking skills.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Ryan Noel Bangras
Course: Nitec in Infocomm Technology (Mobile Networks & Applications)
College: ITE College West

Switching Paths, Finding Success

Ryan loves technology. He dreams of working as a software engineer at the Apple Headquarters. Ironically, he only realised this was his true passion while he was doing theatre studies at the School of the Arts (SOTA).

To pursue his passion, Ryan made the hard decision to quit SOTA and join ITE. The switch was not easy, but Ryan found self-belief with his teachers' support. He took on various opportunities to better himself, participating in competitions and contributing extensively to community projects and school events.

Ryan is grateful to ITE for helping him to rediscover his potential and direction in life.

From the Heart

"By winning this award, I hope to be a role model that ITE students can look up to. I want to inspire them to believe that they too can win the award one day if they do their best.

By inspiring others, I hope to change people's mindset of ITE and see that ITE is a place where people succeed."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Information Technology (IT) at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.
- Plans to further his studies in IT in a university after attaining a Diploma.
- Aspires to be a software engineer.

Top Achievements

- Ryan achieved a GPA score of 4.0 and emerged top of his course cohort.
- He created an ITE College West Student Handbook application to help familiarise freshmen with the College.
- Ryan led four classmates to develop a "People Sensor System" which clinched them the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award in 2017.
- He was selected as the valedictorian for the ITE College West Graduation Ceremony 2018.
- For his excellent service to the community, Ryan won the ITE Service Star Gold and Diamond Awards in 2016 and 2017.

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RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Wong Yi Jie
Course: Nitec in Electrical Technology (Lighting & Sound)
College: ITE College East

A Sound Driven Passion

A self-confessed computer games addict during his primary school days, Yi Jie never expected that his appointment as the class' audio-visual (AV) representative in Primary Three would shape his passion in life.

As an AV representative, he would dutifully check that the AV equipment was working before each class. With time, he started to develop a strong interest in managing AV systems.

To pursue this passion, Yi Jie decided to study at ITE after completing his N-Level examinations. He joined the AV Club, where he rose to become the Club President. A caring and highly-respected leader, Yi Jie constantly sought to train and help other students realise their full potential.

From the Heart

"I remember once, when things did not go smoothly at a school event. There was a lot of audio feedback, but I could not solve the problem. I felt really lousy about myself. However, I thought that if I gave up then, I would not be fit to be a leader. My teammates would be demoralised too. That made me change my mindset immediately. I have learned that failure is just another opportunity to improve ourselves."

Life after ITE

- Pursuing a Diploma in Sonic Arts at Republic Polytechnic.
- Aspires to be a sound engineer in the future.

Top Achievements

- Yi Jie achieved a GPA score of 4.0, and was in the Director's List in 2016 and 2017.
- For his exemplary character and performance in school, he received the Edusave Character Award (2016), CDC & CCC ITE Scholarship (2016 & 2017) and MDIS Scholarship 2017.
- Yi Jie led the audio visual setup for major College events, including the 2017 Graduation Ceremony.

LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2018

RECIPIENT PROFILES

Name: Pan Shao Yee Shervonne
Course: *Nitec* in Food and Beverage Operations
Organisation: Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel

Passion for Pastry

Shervonne loves cakes. She has a life-long dream to open her own café, and spread happiness to people through cakes.

To pursue this dream, Shervonne applied for the *Nitec* in Pastry & Baking Traineeship course. However, she was offered the *Nitec* in Food & Beverage Operations course instead. This made her very disheartened.

Nevertheless, Shervonne did not give up. She stayed positive and grew to recognise that this course would equip her with broader skills for managing café operations. Shervonne eventually learned to make coffee and cocktails during her traineeship with Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel, and hopes to include them as part of her dream café menu!

From the Heart

“The road to success is not easy. I faced obstacles, but I decided that life still goes on, and I will not let anything deter me from realising my dream. I just have to take a longer road to success, which only made me stronger and wiser. I feel confident that I am on track to realising my dream.”

Life after ITE

- Pursuing the *Higher Nitec* in Hospitality Operations at ITE College West.
- Plans to further hone her skills in future by pursuing a Diploma in Food & Beverage Business, and learning in an overseas pastry school.

Top Achievements

- Driven by a positive attitude, Shervonne performed well in her studies and was in the Director’s List in 2017.
- For her excellent guest service at Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel, Shervonne was awarded a Certificate of Recognition (Bronze).
- She received compliments by a regular guest at Sheraton Towers Singapore Hotel, who was impressed by her warm and sincere service. This included her offering recommendations for food and places of interest in Singapore.