

# Paving A Way

By Karen Sum



**President's  
Challenge**

EMPOWER LIVES.  
UPLIFT US ALL.

The **President's Challenge Fellows ITE Inspire** track was first introduced in 2025 to recognise ITE graduates who have achieved outstanding success in their careers, and are committed to giving back to the ITE community. Let's meet our first batch of Fellows and find out who they are!

## Brewing Passion & Purpose

Suhaimi didn't do well in his O-Levels exams as he had to juggle schoolwork with caring for his ill mother. Determined to prove himself, Suhaimi entered ITE with renewed resolve to succeed.

At ITE, **Suhaimi found new purpose**. For the first time, he excelled academically, gaining confidence and pride in his abilities. It was during his ITE days where he found a passion for coffee. He later turned his love for coffee into a thriving career.

Today, he's an **award-winning barista, World Barista** Championship-certified judge, and author of *Kopi, Coffee & Craft*. He also actively gives back to ITE by regularly mentoring students and delivering talks via his *Brew Your Career* series of workshops.



**Mohamad Suhaimi  
Bin Sukiman**

**Co-Owner & Coffee  
Director, Dutch Colony  
Coffee Co.**

*Nitec in  
Building Drafting  
(Architectural)  
Graduated in 2002*

## Anders Tan

**Founder, Inklus Pte Ltd**

*Nitec in Info-  
Communication  
Technology  
Graduated in 2003*



## Championing Inclusion through Innovation

ITE taught Anders more than just skills, he built resilience and picked up values that would guide him as he progressed in his education and career.

While Anders founded his first social enterprise in 2013, it was in 2015 that Anders truly started to shine. Inspired by an autistic family member's job struggles, Anders established Inklus in 2018 to help individuals with special needs find jobs and develop life skills. In 2024, he set up InSchool, an after-school care and therapy programme for children with special needs.

Having built a remarkable career **empowering persons with disabilities**, Anders was honoured as **NCSS 40 under 40 Leader, Tatler Gen.T Leader, and ASEAN Inclusive Business Award recipient**. He continues to give back to ITE as Honorary Secretary of the ITE Alumni Association, leading fundraising, mentoring students, and driving inclusive innovation.

## Nurturing the Next Generation of Nurses

Spurred on by her grandfather's illness, Jocelyn decided to join ITE's *Nitec* in Nursing course when it first launched. It laid the foundation for a lifelong career in healthcare.

She chose to gain clinical experience as an Enrolled Nurse first before going on to do her diploma later on. Her zeal for the job and outstanding performance impressed her supervisors at Ang Mo Kio-Thye Hua Kwan Hospital. Jocelyn progressed from nurse to leader and educator, earning multiple awards including the **President's Award for Nurses**.

Passionate about eldercare and nurturing young nurses, Jocelyn plans to build an online platform for ITE nursing alumni to connect and share experiences. She wants to open more doors for ITE students because she believes they can also be excellent nurses, despite naysayers.



### Jocelyn Ng

Assistant Director of Nursing  
(Nursing Education)  
Ang Mo Kio –  
Thye Hua Kwan Hospital

*Nitec* in Nursing  
Graduated in 2001

## Noel Ng

Owner & Director of HARTS,  
Hint, Hei, and Hove Salons

*Nitec* in Hair Services  
(Hair Fashion & Design)  
Completed in 2010

*Nitec* in Hair Services  
(Hair & Scalp Therapy)  
Graduated in 2012



## Shaping a Creative Career

Noel discovered his flair for hairstyling through ITE's pioneering hairdressing course. With his newfound skills, Noel went on to clinch Gold at WorldSkills ASEAN 2010, Medallion for Excellence at WorldSkills London 2011.

By 2016, he opened his first salon. At a time where social media marketing was unheard of in the hairdressing industry, Noel used it to effectively expand his business from a team of four, to running four salons with a team of 46.

Noel offers internship and permanent positions to ITE graduates and supports the industry and ITE by sharing knowledge at seminars. He hopes to leverage on the Fellowship to promote hairdressing as a respected, rewarding career through training and social media.

## Brewing Passion & Purpose

Edmund chose Vocational & Industrial Training Board (ITE's predecessor institution) to gain practical skills and industry-relevant training. The strong technical foundation he established helped as he sought to deepen his skills over the years. He eventually completed a Masters of Business while rising through the ranks at Keppel Offshore & Marine (now Seatrium) and now oversees shipyards in Benoi, Pioneer, and Tuas.

Edmund recognises the potential and resilience of ITE students, and has been a strong supporter of the ITE Work-Study Diploma and internship programmes, which are key to bridging education and industry. Moving forward, he intends to enhance career readiness for ITE students in the engineering field through learning and mentorship programmes.



### Edmund Lek

Senior Vice President (Operations)  
Seatrium Limited

National Training Certificate  
(NTC) Grade 3 in Electronics  
Servicing (Digital Equipment)  
Completed in 1987

NTC Grade 2 in Electronics  
Servicing (Digital Equipment)  
Graduated in 1988