



**Lee Kuan Yew  
Model Student  
Award**

**Damien Koh  
Wen Hao**

***Higher Nitec in  
Sport Management  
ITE College West***

# Turning Setbacks into Comebacks

Damien is a caring and determined individual who has faced many challenges in his life, shaping him into a proactive leader and advocate for others. Growing up in a single-parent family, he took on important responsibilities from a young age, looking after his siblings and developing a strong sense of empathy for those who are struggling. These experiences inspired him to help and support others, especially those who feel lost in life.

Transitioning to a new school environment was daunting for Damien, and he initially struggled to fit in. However, his time at ITE became a turning point for him. As he began to engage more with his peers and the community, he realised the importance of making a positive impact. Being elected as President of the ACE Club provided him with the opportunity to reach out to vulnerable members of the community through projects like 'MOE-ITE Adopt a Block', which reinforced his commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment.

Looking ahead, he plans to join the ITE Alumni Association to give back to the community that has helped him grow. He aims to continue supporting his peers who face similar challenges. Ultimately, he aspires to become a solicitor in Singapore, advocating for vulnerable groups.

## From the Heart

*"I used to be very quiet and kept things to myself, rarely opening up to others. However, everything changed when my lecturer encouraged me to join the ITE Student Leaders Forum. She recognised my potential even when I could not see it in myself. With her support, I found the courage to step out of my comfort zone and take on leadership roles in ways I never thought possible!"*

## Life after ITE

Damien is currently pursuing a Common Business Programme at Nanyang Polytechnic.

## Top Achievements

- As President of the ACE Club in 2024, Damien demonstrated initiative and a strong commitment to community engagement.
- For his outstanding academic performance and exemplary conduct, he received the 21st Century Star Award 2024 and the Edusave Character Award 2024. He was also on the Director's List in 2023.
- Damien played a key role in an international student engagement initiative, collaborating with 19 School of Business students to host overseas students from Vietnam during a two-week inbound programme in Singapore.
- He worked alongside fellow College students to brainstorm and develop solutions aimed at reducing the country's carbon emissions, creating an application prototype called 'CW Lite'.
- In 2024, Damien and his team participated in the HSBC NYAA ITE-SMEs Sustainability Initiative, where they closely collaborated with industry experts, including 'Crunch Cutlery' and 'Seroja', a Michelin Green Star restaurant. He also helped establish a partnership with the National University of Singapore.
- Damien was the student emcee for the Finals of the IgnITE Skills Challenge 2024.