

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Tharani d/o Karthikesu  
**Course:** Work-Study Diploma in Community Engagement and Development  
**College:** ITE College Central

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### **Finding Her Path**

A Beauty and Spa Management graduate, Tharani was six months into her diploma course at Republic Polytechnic when she decided to get a full-time job instead. Financial constraints and the need to care for her wheelchair-bound grandmother meant she had to put her studies on hold. As her family's sole breadwinner, Tharani took on a series of jobs, which included administrative work, cabin crew, and freelancing as a nail and henna artist.

As her grandmother's health declined, Tharani sought work with more flexible hours so she could be there for her. Drawing from her personal caregiving experience, she found work as a freelance caregiver with Homage, where she discovered a deeper sense of purpose in supporting others. Motivated to grow in the field, she enrolled in the Work-Study Diploma (WSDip) in Community Engagement and Development to pursue her passion when the opportunity arose.

Now an Admin & Operations Executive at Inclus Pte Ltd, Tharani has found her calling. Beyond administrative work and helping out with training, Tharani supports and trains students with special educational needs, guiding them as they transition to work life during their internship. Known for her patience and empathy, she provides both practical skills and emotional reassurance to the students she is in charge of. Through her WSDip journey, Tharani has not only started to build a career but also found meaningful purpose in empowering others.

### **From the Heart**

*"The WSDip programme really helped me to grow as a person. Before WSDip, I felt like everything was on 'pause' after completing my Higher Nitec. The gap between me and my peers was getting bigger and bigger each year. My colleagues, my friends, my classmates... they were all moving forward in their careers and further away from where I stood. Thanks to the WSDip programme, I finally feel that I am progressing, and since working at Inclus, I've learnt how to be more professional and communicate well with others."*

### **Life after ITE**

Tharani would like to continue working with persons with disabilities and exploring areas related to training. She also hopes to go on to do a degree in the future.

### **Top Achievements**

- Tharani overcame her initial challenge in communicating effectively with bigger groups of people by actively seeking guidance from her colleagues and mentors and putting what she learnt into practice to build her confidence.
- One of her projects involved working with special educational needs students interning at Starships Flowers and Balloons. Training these interns on developing the soft skills they need for their job was challenging but fulfilling, inspiring Tharani to work more closely with persons with disabilities.
- The skills she picked up during the course and while working at Inclus, have helped her improve professionally and gain more confidence.
- While patience was already a virtue that Tharani possesses, she was able to develop it further to handle clients experiencing meltdowns in a calm manner. She is proud that this has become one of her greatest strengths.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

Name: Rahimah Binte Mohamed Rais  
Course: Work-Study Diploma in Nursing  
College: ITE College East

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### **Compassion in Action**

When Rahimah was younger, she witnessed a loved one suffer a cardiac arrest. At the hospital, she observed how the nurses and doctors dropped everything to try to save her loved one. The urgency and dedication portrayed by the healthcare workers left a deep impression on her. It inspired her to become a nurse and pursue opportunities that would allow her to care for the vulnerable.

In 2002, she took up a *Nitec* in Nursing course and began her nursing career upon graduation in 2004. Today, Rahimah is a Principal Enrolled Nurse at Sengkang General Hospital (SKH), with 22 years of nursing experience. A desire to deepen her skills led her to take up the WSDip in Nursing when SKH offered the opportunity. She is grateful the hospital recognised her efforts and has given her a chance to upskill and contribute more meaningfully to her profession.

Driven and committed to lifelong learning, Rahimah actively supports her peers by encouraging quieter classmates to join group activities and offering guidance to those who need help with grasping concepts taught in class. Her strong leadership is evident during group projects and class activities, where she takes the initiative to facilitate discussions and organise bonding sessions, such as badminton games, to foster a strong sense of teamwork and camaraderie.

### **From the Heart**

*“Receiving the Lee Kuan Yew Model Trainee Award inspires me to continue pushing boundaries and believing in lifelong learning. It reminds me that growth is not a solitary journey, but one shaped through collaboration and shared learning, with the support of colleagues who work alongside us. In nursing, excellence is built through teamwork – learning from one another, supporting one another, and striving together to provide the best possible care for our patients.*

*This award is not just a personal honour. It reflects perseverance, curiosity, and the collective effort of those who have guided and supported me. It motivates me to serve with greater humility, passion, and commitment, and to continue growing as both a nurse and a team member.”*

### **Life after ITE**

Upon completion of her WSDip in September 2027, Rahimah will resume duties at SKH as a Registered Nurse. She intends to pursue a Degree in Nursing alongside an Advanced Diploma in Nursing, so she can continue to grow and stay future-ready in her career.

### **Top Achievements**

- Rahimah was awarded the SKH You Sparkle Award (Gold) in 2025, one of the hospital’s highest staff honours, for her excellent contributions to nursing practice, patient advocacy and quality improvement initiatives.
- Rahimah co-led a project, ‘Empowering Patients: Understanding Your Prescribed Pain Medications’ which earned the Patients as Partners-in-Improvement Special Recognition Award at the SingHealth Duke-NUS Quality & Innovation Day 2025.
- She played a key role in Project IMPROVE which enhanced the tracking of patient-reported outcomes in pain management, improving treatment effectiveness.
- Rahimah participated in SKH Urology Department’s fundraising campaign in 2024, running with patients weekly to raise awareness about men’s health.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL TRAINEE AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Liew Di Xuan  
**Course:** Work-Study Diploma in Tourism Management  
**College:** ITE College West

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### **A Heart for Every Tour**

After completing his *Nitec* in Hospitality Operations course and National Service, Di Xuan pursued a WSDip in Tourism with Chan Brothers Travel Pte Ltd, taking a step closer to financial independence and his goal of achieving a business degree. Leveraging on his hospitality background, he excelled as a travel advisor, handling diverse customer inquiries with efficiency.

After gaining eight months of frontline experience, Di Xuan transitioned into the operations team to master the industry's inner workings. Behind the scenes, he manages booking coordination, documentation, and stakeholder relations, supporting daily operations and serving as a vital link between local teams and overseas partners. On top of his core responsibilities, Di Xuan supports the retail team during weekends and travel fairs, all while balancing his professional commitments with his studies. He has proven to be a versatile and dependable team member at the workplace, applying the same diligent and proactive approach he brings to the classroom.

For Di Xuan, service is a calling that goes beyond his job. He is deeply committed to giving back and considers a recent company volunteering event at St Luke's ElderCare Active Ageing Centre his most notable event so far. He found great fulfilment in bringing joy to elderly residents through sing-alongs and festive gifting – an experience made even more meaningful by serving alongside his colleagues.

### **From the Heart**

*"I have always been more of a doer than a passive learner, so doing actual work suits me more than just sitting in a classroom. Honestly, the work-study life is not always smooth sailing. My classmates and I work at different companies so it can be hard to coordinate our schedules for group projects. At the end of the day, it is all about good time management. There is a time for everything. Take breaks to avoid burn-outs, recharge and keep moving forward!"*

### **Life after ITE**

After graduation, Di Xuan plans to continue working in Chan Brothers Travel Pte Ltd while exploring pathways to further his studies with a degree in business.

### **Top Achievements**

- Di Xuan attained a perfect Grade Point Average (GPA) of 4.0, demonstrating his academic excellence and exemplary professional conduct at work.
- He is currently involved in a strategic company project aimed at attracting a younger membership profile. His role involves identifying relevant activities, programmes and key customer touchpoints to cultivate customer loyalty.
- He represented Chan Brothers Travel Pte Ltd at ITE College West (CW)'s WSDip Fair & Homecoming 2025, sharing his ITE journey and providing valuable first-hand perspectives as a WSDip trainee.
- He was featured in a promotional video on WSDip on ITE CW's social media platforms. He contributed actively both on-screen and behind-the-scenes, from concept development, storyboarding to filming, ensuring that the content reflected authentic industry experiences.

**LEE KUAN YEW CCA AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Chia Xin Jie, Janelle  
**Course:** Nitec in Aerospace Avionics  
**College:** ITE College Central

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### **Punching Above Weight**

A self-taught gymnast, Janelle pivoted to taekwondo at the age of nine when her aunt suggested she try martial arts at a local community club. Recognising her potential, her coach guided her steady progression and by 2019 – just two years into training – Janelle joined Acme Taekwondo Club and began representing them at national competitions. She also took on opportunities to showcase the sport at events and participate in flag ceremonies.

Through rigorous training and competitive exposure, Janelle honed her skills and built her confidence. In 2024, she earned a place on the Singapore National Virtual Taekwondo Team and was the sole competitor representing Singapore in virtual taekwondo at the Asian E-Sports Week 2025 in Hangzhou, clinching a bronze medal.

Despite training four to five times a week during competition season, Janelle remained committed to her studies and school life. She also participated in football CCA to broaden her sporting experience. Outside of sports, she contributes to community service projects and initiatives, consistently making time to give back despite her commitments.

### **From the Heart**

*“ITE has been a place of growth and transformation for me. I entered with doubts shaped by stereotypes and struggled with self-confidence, but the support from my class advisor and lecturers gave me the courage and confidence to keep going and growing. Balancing rigorous training, studies, and long daily commutes was challenging and tiring, but it taught me resilience, discipline, and the determination to push beyond my limits. My journey in ITE has shaped who I am and continues to inspire me to strive for excellence in both taekwondo and the field of aviation.”*

### **Life after ITE**

Janelle is currently pursuing a Diploma in Aerospace Electronics at Temasek Polytechnic, working towards her long-term goal of joining Scoot airlines as a pilot. She hopes to continue competing in virtual taekwondo for the next five to seven years, with aspirations to represent Singapore at the SEA Games, World Championships, and Olympic Games.

### **Top Achievements**

- Janelle was selected for the Singapore Taekwondo Federation National Development Squad in 2024, competing as part of Team Singapore at international competitions.
- She won Gold at the inaugural Singapore Open 2024 Virtual Taekwondo Championships, and later clinched Bronze medals at the Muju Taekwondowon 2024 International Open Virtual Taekwondo Championships (Young Adult Individual Female category) in Korea, and the Virtual Taekwondo event at the 2025 Asia Esports Week in Hangzhou, China.
- At the college level, Janelle brought honour to ITE by winning Silver and Gold at the Poly-ITE Games 2024 and 2025 respectively in the Female Black Kyorugi U46kg category.
- Beyond her sporting achievements, Janelle contributed actively to community service efforts such as the Bone Marrow Donor Programme where she engaged members of public at the donor recruitment booth to raise awareness and encourage sign-ups, and volunteer work supporting children in need during an Overseas Student Development Programme in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**LEE KUAN YEW CCA AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Rohin Sachchiit s/o Mahenthiran  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Electronics Engineering  
**College:** ITE College East

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### **Growing a Voice for Sustainability**

Rohin's journey into environmental advocacy began unexpectedly when he joined the Green Ambassadors Club with a friend. What started as a casual decision soon developed into a strong interest as he immersed himself in workshops and learning journeys that deepened his understanding of sustainability and sparked his commitment to environmental stewardship.

Despite being an introvert, Rohin stepped up to serve as Vice President and later President of the Green Ambassadors Club (GAC). In these roles, he led initiatives across the school and wider community, organising campus sustainability events and learning journeys for GAC members, while also spearheading outreach efforts such as upcycling workshops for seniors and programmes for children. He also took on diverse duties from member engagement and budget planning to sourcing sponsors for events, all while fostering a supportive environment that empowered his team and contributed to his own growth.

### **From the Heart**

*"The three years in ITE shaped me into someone more aware, responsible, and driven to make a difference. Through the Green Ambassadors Club, I learned leadership, teamwork, and how small actions can create meaningful impact on the environment."*

### **Life after ITE**

Rohin has enrolled into Diploma in Electronics Engineering at Temasek Polytechnic. He later hopes to pursue a degree and aspires to become a uniformed officer in the future.

### **Top Achievements**

- Rohin served as Vice President (2024) and President (2025) of the Green Ambassadors Club, where he led key initiatives such as the Sustainability Carnival and represented ITE at major events including the East Coast Community Day Tree Planting and PAYM – Future of Youth Launch Ceremony.
- His team, 'DigiSustain Trio' progressed to the finals of the ITE Digitalisation & Sustainability Challenge 2024 with an AI-driven project that promoted cashless payments, while highlighting its environmental benefits.
- A confident and articulate speaker, Rohin served as emcee for several key events, including Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremonies with industry partners, such as Lenovo Singapore, MeTech Recycling Pte Ltd and TP-Link Corporation Pte Ltd.
- He actively contributed to community and environmental efforts through initiatives such as ALBA International E-Waste Day, upcycling workshops for seniors, kayaking clean-up activities, and youth outreach programmes.
- Rohin was selected to deliver a presentation to students in Hong Kong during an Overseas Student Development Programme on climate change, Singapore's landfill challenges, recycling efforts, and ecological overshoot comparison between Singapore and Hong Kong.

**LEE KUAN YEW CCA AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

Name: Justus Toh Junyi  
Course: *Higher Nitec* in IT Systems & Networks  
College: ITE College West

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### **Rising Up to Uplift Others**

For most of his formative years, Justus was cared for by his grandparents while his mother worked to support the family. To ease the financial burden, Justus took on part-time jobs while juggling his studies and co-curricular commitments. Though it was physically and mentally straining for him, Justus coped by making an effort to have some alone time to recharge and exercise, allowing him to take a breather and refocus.

Driven and self-motivated, Justus stepped up as President of the Green Ambassador Club in ITE College West to hone his leadership skills and pursue his passion for environmental advocacy – an interest he developed in secondary school while working on sustainability values-in-action projects.

From 2024 to 2025, Justus spearheaded several notable events such as the Youth for the Environment Day where his team worked with various schools in ITE to set up booths to educate staff and students on sustainability. He also facilitated a panel discussion with invited speakers from Singapore-based social enterprises on circular economy practices and environmental sustainability. His team also engaged residents at the Brickland Green Festival, repurposing old community banners into reusable pouches to highlight the importance of environmental stewardship.

Outside of school, Justus is deeply committed to community service. He tutors underprivileged children, supports Meet-The-People sessions, and helps seniors navigate digital tools and services. Even after graduation, Justus continues volunteering as he feels it is his responsibility as a citizen.

### **From the Heart**

*“Receiving the Lee Kuan Yew CCA Award is more than just a recognition of my past achievements. It is a validation of my core belief of virtue. Throughout my journey, I have learned that true impact requires both grit and the willingness to grow and adapt. It is about pushing through obstacles to serve the community. This award represents how far I have come and my commitment in ensuring that the initiatives I lead create a lasting difference. It also reminds me that mistakes are part of the journey and that true leadership is ultimately about uplifting others and upholding personal values.”*

### **Life after ITE**

Justus is currently taking up the Common ICT Programme at Singapore Polytechnic.

### **Top Achievements**

- Justus launched a self-directed advocacy campaign to raise awareness and funds for the 365 Cancer Prevention Society and in honour of his late aunt. He walked 165km in under 41 hours, raised \$2,080 and earned a place in the Singapore Book of Records for the ‘Longest Double Stage Round Singapore Walk’.
- Justus received several Edusave awards in 2024, namely, the Edusave Awards for Achievement, Good Leadership and Service, the Edusave Skills Award and the Edusave Merit Bursary. He was also placed on the Director’s List.
- At the ITE Climate Change Hackathon in 2024, Justus’ team, ‘Eco Thinkers’, submitted a TikTok video on sustainable practices at the Siloso Beach Resort, which won the ‘Most Socially Impactful Project’ award.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Irene Lee Ai Wei  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Visual Communication  
**College:** ITE College Central

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### **Breaking Limits**

Irene's interest in art began in childhood. She was fascinated by cartoons and inspired by her older sister, who often drew and created digital art. Her learning journey, however, was not without challenges. In her early years, Irene faced difficulties with speech and communication. She struggled with her studies and did not do well in her PSLE, which affected her self-esteem. She continued her education at Spectra Secondary School, where she discovered new ways to learn and gradually built confidence, eventually achieving 'A's in all her N-Level subjects.

To pursue her passion for art, Irene enrolled in the *Nitec* in Visual Communication course. While she still needed more time to learn certain design software, the support and guidance from her lecturers kept her on track. Through diligence and effort, Irene excelled in her course and was selected to represent ITE in Graphic Design Technology at WorldSkills Singapore 2025. She was also among three students selected to create illustrations for a campaign by the Ministry of Education promoting the ITE Progression Award.

Outside of school, Irene has sought to give back to the community by volunteering to engage and befriend elderly patients at a hospital.

### **From the Heart**

*"My time at ITE taught me that I am not defined by labels. It does not matter how slow you are or how long your journey takes. Everyone progresses at their own pace. I feel blessed to be given so many opportunities to learn and grow at ITE with the support of my lecturers. Through hard work and determination, I was able to improve in my learning and achieve more than I thought I could. I really wanted to show my parents, teachers and, most importantly, myself that I could accomplish things I did not think were possible. I also want to draw on my experience to encourage my peers facing similar struggles – if I can do it, so can they."*

### **Life after ITE**

Irene is currently pursuing a Diploma in Communication Design at Temasek Polytechnic. She plans to pursue a career in art and design.

### **Top Achievements**

- Representing ITE, Irene clinched the Medallion for Excellence in Graphic Design Technology at WorldSkills Singapore 2025.
- She was selected as the valedictorian for the ITE College Central School of Design & Media graduation ceremony.
- Irene clinched first prize in the Tertiary Education category of the Tampines Town Council Mural Design Competition 2024 for her artwork promoting waste reduction.
- Excelling in her studies, she achieved a perfect GPA score of 4.0 and was placed on the Director's List for all semesters.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Law Cha Ying  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Electronics Engineering  
**College:** ITE College Central

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### **Navigating Challenges, Building Resilience**

Cha Ying often felt the pressure of balancing full-time studies with a part-time job, working to help ease the financial burden on her family. There were moments when unfamiliar and challenging subjects in her coursework felt overwhelming, making her question whether she was on the right path.

A turning point came through a mentorship workshop at ITE, which gave her fresh perspectives on goal setting and overcoming setbacks. She found herself becoming more disciplined, focusing better on her schoolwork, and developing a solid way of managing her busy schedule. Outside of her studies, she grew into a more responsible and independent person, her inner strength built by the challenge of balancing work and her personal life.

Looking ahead, she hopes to do well in polytechnic and continue to improve in her studies. Her goal is to eventually make it to university and keep progressing towards a better future. Having discovered her interest in analysing data trends and numbers while at ITE, Cha Ying aspires to become a Data Analyst. She hopes to grow as a person and in the long run, make a positive impact on others and the world.

### **From the Heart**

*“At ITE, I learned to be more disciplined with my studies and more responsible in my personal life. The biggest lesson I have learned is to never give up on yourself. It is okay to feel lost, but you have to keep moving. Do not be afraid to ask for help, and just focus on improving, one step at a time.”*

### **Life after ITE**

Cha Ying is pursuing a Diploma in Applied AI & Analytics at Singapore Polytechnic. She plans to take a science or computing-related degree after attaining her diploma.

### **Top Achievements**

- Cha Ying achieved a GPA of 4.0 in 2024 and was placed on the Director's List in the same year.
- She led her team to a runner-up finish at the Huawei Tech4City 2025 competition with an innovative energy monitoring solution capable of tracking classroom electricity usage. The system features an interactive dashboard displaying data transmitted via LoRa and stored in a MySQL database, organised by classroom.
- She served as team leader for the ITE Digitalisation & Sustainability Challenge 2024, where she contributed to the development of a prototype mobile application that tracks daily energy usage, monitors consumption behaviour, and provides eco-friendly recommendations, with outputs presented on Canva, securing a runner-up position.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Mok Zi Hui  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Accounting  
**College:** ITE College Central

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### **Building Confidence Through Dedication**

Zi Hui was determined to pursue a career in accounting, but the journey was not without challenges. Entering the course without the foundational knowledge many of his peers already had, he faced moments of self-doubt and concern about his grades and performance. Instead of giving up, he committed to consistent practice, taking things one step at a time, until he began to grasp the concepts and gain confidence. He realised that accounting demanded not just knowledge, but also speed, accuracy, and consistency.

What truly motivated Zi Hui was the desire to prove to himself that he could succeed. Seeing others pick up subjects with apparent ease spurred him on to work even harder, not out of competition, but to realise his own potential. His aspiration for a career in finance was more than just for a job; it was about building a secure future for himself. Staying resilient and consistent became his guiding principles.

A significant turning point for Zi Hui was when he decided to step up as Treasurer of the Rotaract Club. This was a considerable leap from his earlier days as a regular member. Initially, he was hesitant to take the lead, but by actively participating in and guiding various events, his confidence grew. He learned how to manage tasks effectively, make sound decisions, and communicate clearly with others. This experience, alongside his academic pursuits, made him more resilient and improved his time management skills, helping him feel better prepared for what lay ahead.

### **From the Heart**

*“There were days I doubted myself, but I held on to the belief that consistent practice would lead me forward. ITE gave me the opportunity to push myself out of my comfort zone, and I learned to lead, make decisions, and communicate effectively. Balancing my studies and these roles taught me resilience and the importance of time management. My advice is to embrace the journey, believe in your own pace, and never stop practising.”*

### **Life after ITE**

Zi Hui is pursuing a Diploma in Accountancy at Singapore Polytechnic. He plans to continue his studies in accounting and finance at university.

### **Top Achievements**

- Zi Hui graduated as Valedictorian of the School of Business and Services (Class of Dec 2025) and was consistently placed on the Director’s List from 2023 to 2025.
- He received accolades including the ITE Community Scholarship (2023), EAGLES Award (2023 to 2025), and Edusave Skills Award (2024 and 2025) for his outstanding performance.
- He was selected for the ACE Programme in 2024, a testament to his high potential and development in leadership, character, and service.
- Zi Hui served as Director of Community Service for the Rotaract Club in 2024, orchestrating impactful projects like the CDC Children’s Day Event and the Silver Home Makeover, enhancing the lives of underprivileged seniors. He became the club’s Treasurer in 2025, managing fundraising efforts that raised \$2,000 raised for the CDC Children’s Day event that year.
- His dedication to service was recognised through the ITE Service Star Award (2023 to 2025).

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Peng Kee Yuan Gelfrid  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Nursing  
**College:** ITE College East

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### **Embracing a Second Chance**

After completing his GCE O-Level examinations in 2014, Gelfrid began his journey at ITE, where he pursued *Higher Nitec* in Shipping Operations & Services before moving on to National Service (NS). However, he struggled to secure full-time employment post-NS. During this period of uncertainty, Gelfrid reflected on his decisions and resolved to chart a better future.

In 2020, amid the COVID-19 crisis, Gelfrid joined the Health Promotion Board as a frontline swabber and was deployed to Tan Tock Seng Hospital. He played a significant role in the testing of COVID-19, ensuring that proper safety protocols are in place for positive cases. Despite the anxiety and challenges, his dedication and empathy towards his patients and peers impressed his superiors, leading him to secure a full-time job as a Patient Service Associate at the hospital. Working closely with nurses in the Emergency Department, his supervisors saw his potential for even further growth and development. Gelfrid leapt at the opportunity when the hospital offered to sponsor a full-time *Higher Nitec* course in Nursing, further strengthening his commitment and passion for the job. He returned to ITE with renewed focus, and is now set to contribute more meaningfully to the hospital and provide even better care for patients.

Today, 28-year-old Gelfrid stands out among his peers with a perfect GPA of 4.0, displaying leadership as President of the Rotaract Club and contributing to impactful and award-winning healthcare innovations. More than his achievements, it is his personal transformation that sets him apart, making him a deeply inspiring and deserving recipient of this honour.

### **From the Heart**

*"Tough times do not last - only tough people do. This quote has stayed with me since my army days. To me, true success is not just about winning; it is about having the resilience to rise after every setback and the determination to keep moving forward. Over the years, I have faced many difficult moments, including the loss of my father, but each time I found a way to push through. Looking back, I realise these experiences have shaped me into a stronger, more resilient and determined person."*

### **Life after ITE**

Now in the third year of his three-year *Higher Nitec* course, Gelfrid aspires to progress to a diploma and eventually a degree, with the goal of becoming an Advanced Practice Nurse.

### **Top Achievements**

- Gelfrid contributed to innovative projects such as 'Bedside Buddy', a smart assistive bedside table showcased at the i-CREATE Student Innovation Challenge 2024, and the award-winning 'GripAssist' (Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award 2026), a portable device that helps the elderly in moving safely from a lying to a sitting position.
- He also led a 25-member team to develop an anti-scam project which was showcased at the International Student Seminar 2024, held in Hong Kong.
- Gelfrid strengthened inter-campus and external partnerships as President of the Rotaract Club, and led large-scale collaborations and events, such as the Joint Installation Ceremony across the three ITE Colleges.
- He demonstrated strong commitment to community service through multiple impactful initiatives. At Children's Carnival Day, organised with ITE College Central, SINDA and MINDSville@Napiri, he oversaw the planning and management to ensure a well-executed event. He actively supported mental health advocacy through initiatives like WalkForClarity and volunteered weekly at the Riding for the Disabled Association of Singapore, assisting children with diverse needs.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Tan Jie Ying  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering  
**College:** ITE College East

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### **In the Zone**

With Mathematics as her favourite subject, Jie Ying enrolled in the *Higher Nitec* in Electrical Engineering course as numbers spoke to her more than words. Believing that 'when people see you putting in effort, they will give you opportunities', Jie Ying puts in 100 per cent into everything she does and has seen the rewards. She grabbed the opportunities ITE presented to her and excelled. This also meant that she had a packed schedule and was constantly managing her time. Despite that, she tried to keep her weekends free to spend time with her family and ensured she had enough rest.

Jie Ying's sociable nature meant that she found joy in making new friends and working well with others. Lauded as a good listener among her friends, she put these qualities to good use through her volunteer work – putting in time at several community events, such as being a motivator at the National Day Parade 2025, teaching the elderly electrical safety and conservation, and playing a charity football match to raise funds for Breast Cancer. Jie Ying's technical competence also saw her being selected to represent Singapore and compete in Information Network Cabling at WorldSkills ASEAN 2025, where she won Gold and the Best of Nation Award. Though her time at ITE spanned just two years, Jie Ying certainly made sure she made the best of these two years.

### **From the Heart**

*"Use your time in ITE wisely and do not take it as you got into ITE because it is your last choice. I am not saying you need to study all the time; balance it with friends, family and other activities. Grow as a person – build up leadership qualities, see the world... ITE has many opportunities so just hop on, sign up for stuff, even if you are alone. You will make friends after that."*

### **Life after ITE**

Jie Ying's academic achievements allows her to skip to Year 2 of her Electrical & Electronic Engineering course at Singapore Polytechnic. Her first major task is preparing and training for WorldSkills Shanghai, happening in September 2026.

### **Top Achievements**

- Jie Ying kept on top of her studies and achieved a perfect GPA of 4.0.
- An avid football fan, Jie Ying honed her skills with her school's women's soccer team, FAS Women's National League (WNL) team, Eastern Thunder, and the Under-19 Youth National Football Team. She competed in the POLITE Women Soccer Competition (2024) where her team won Gold. Her WNL team was first runner-up in the WNL 2024 and second runner-up in WNL 2025;. Jie Ying and her school teammates also took home the Silver medal in the Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic Games in 2025.
- Her outstanding academic achievements, diligence and positive learning attitude earned her the EE Model Student Award.
- Jie Ying is also a recipient of the Service Star Diamond Award, having demonstrated integrity, excellence, service and leadership.
- Additionally, Jie Ying's enthusiasm and confidence saw her present at the Singapore International Energy Week Conference in 2024, RoboSG! roadshow and participate in the ITE Digitalisation and Sustainability Challenge.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Tan Jin Huay  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Logistics & Supply Chain Management  
**College:** ITE College East

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### **Delivering Success**

During her secondary school years, Jin Huay faced challenges staying motivated in her studies. When her O-Level results fell short of her expectations, she found herself at a crossroads. She was encouraged to enroll in ITE's logistics course by her mother, who saw logistics as an in-demand industry.

While Jin Huay initially struggled to adapt to a new environment and an unfamiliar field of study at ITE, her interest in logistics grew as she learned more about it. She joined the Logistics Club, where she demonstrated her leadership qualities and was elected Vice President. In this role, she identified volunteering opportunities for club members and led them in carrying out community initiatives such as packing food for the less privileged.

As Jin Huay honed her capabilities in the logistics field, she gained recognition for her potential and was selected to represent ITE in Logistics and Freight Forwarding at WorldSkills Singapore 2025. These experiences deepened her passion for logistics and gave her the confidence that it was the career she wanted to pursue.

### **From the Heart**

*"Entering ITE was a turning point for me. At first, I was unsure of my direction in life and worried about being judged by others. Over time, I learned to step out of my comfort zone and not let the opinions of others hold me back. We cannot control what others say, but we can control our mindset and how we react. This helped me find the motivation to work harder and seize every opportunity I have. I realised that it is not about the school you are in, but how you make the most of what it offers. Ultimately, it was through ITE that I discovered my true passion and abilities."*

### **Life after ITE**

Jin Huay is currently pursuing a Diploma in International Trade & Logistics at Temasek Polytechnic. She plans to build a career in logistics and supply chain management.

### **Top Achievements**

- Jin Huay attained the National Youth Achievement Award Gold Award in recognition of her strong community leadership.
- Through her demonstration of all-round excellence and good conduct, she won the Rotary-ITE Student Excellence Award in 2025.
- For her extensive service contributions, Jin Huay received the ITE Service Star Gold Award in 2025.
- She was among three students in her cohort to receive a scholarship by ST Logistics, which included an internship stint with the company.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Goh Cheng Hwee, Haley  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Western Culinary Arts  
**College:** ITE College West

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### **Rising Through the Heat**

Since young, Haley has been drawn to the kitchen, watching her grandmother cook. What began as curiosity grew into a deeper passion, along with an appreciation for how food brings people together. When she discovered that ITE offered the *Nitec* in Western Culinary Arts course during her secondary school years, she worked towards securing a place in the course to pursue her culinary interests.

Her dedication translated into strong performances on competitive platforms. Haley represented ITE at the WorldSkills Singapore 2025, undergoing intensive training that strengthened her technical skills, discipline, and ability to perform under pressure. Building on this experience, she went on to clinch a Bronze medal at the Greater Bay Area International Youth Skills Competition 2025 in Hong Kong, where she competed individually in the Western Cooking category.

In school, Haley was a dependable leader who supported her classmates through assignments and challenges. During her training at ITE College West's Amber West restaurant, she played a key role in guiding her team as they adapted to food service in a live training environment. She also broadened her learning through community service, including an overseas expedition to Vietnam, where she served as a first aider, helped build a community garden, and taught basic hospitality skills to local youth.

### **From the Heart**

*"ITE was more than just a place of learning – it was where I found my purpose. Every challenge strengthened my resilience and shaped my growth. This journey has made me more driven and grounded, and I am grateful for the opportunities and people who pushed me to go beyond my limits."*

### **Life after ITE**

Haley is currently pursuing the Technical Diploma in Culinary Arts with Restaurant Management at ITE. She aspires to open her own restaurant in the future.

### **Top Achievements**

- Haley was among the top three participants in the Alliance Programme 2025, a 10-week international programme in Lyon, France, where she trained alongside global culinary students and gained industry exposure, including a two-week attachment at Saisons, a one Michelin-starred restaurant. She also contributed to the Lyon Street Food Festival, supporting operations across various food stalls.
- Haley led a student entrepreneurship project, successfully securing ITE Enterprise Funds to develop a business concept selling fried chicken breaded with potato chips, which was showcased at the CW live streaming competition.
- She also took part in the NYAA-HSBC Sustainability Initiative 2024, working with a partner restaurant to implement energy- and cost-saving solutions by installing PVC strip curtains to reduce cold air loss in the kitchen.
- In recognition of her strong academic performance, she was placed on the Director's List 2024 and 2025, and received the Edusave Skills Award and Edusave Merit Bursary in 2025. She was also awarded the 21st Century Star Award (Gold) for her contributions and all-round development.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Alannah Ng Gai Xun  
**Course:** *Higher Nitec* in Tourism  
**College:** ITE College West

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### **Taking a Chance**

After the setback of not progressing to polytechnic, Alannah Ng refused to let disappointment define her path. Instead, she chose to move forward with quiet determination, embracing new possibilities at ITE. Encouraged by her father, she took up tourism course which initially sparked her interest but yet not passion. However, this changed during her internship at Sentosa. As a Service Ambassador on the island, Alannah discovered a genuine love for engaging with visitors from around the world. It ignited a strong sense of purpose, transforming her uncertainty into clarity and conviction. Now, Alannah envisions building an exciting career in the local tourism industry.

She is certainly a step closer to her dream, achieving an impressive GPA of 3.947, while emerging as a dynamic and influential student leader. As President of the Student Council, Alannah led with conviction and heart, spearheading community initiatives, championing student voices, and representing her peers on significant platforms. From moderating a national dialogue with the Minister of Education, to engaging in the US Embassy Singapore-ITE Alumni Mentoring Programme 2025 and representing her team at the International Student Seminar 2024 in Hong Kong, Alannah demonstrated confidence, global awareness, and purpose.

### **From the Heart**

*"I learned that setbacks are not the end - they are the beginning of discovering who you can become. I am grateful for those who believed in me when I doubted myself, and for every opportunity that challenged me to grow. I will continue to serve with purpose, lead with heart, and strive to make a difference wherever I go."*

### **Life after ITE**

Alannah is pursuing a Diploma in Tourism & Resort Management at Ngee Ann Polytechnic. She hopes to land a job with the Singapore Tourism Board or return to Sentosa to uncover more interesting experiences.

### **Top Achievements**

- In her role as President of Student Council, Alannah spearheaded several fundraising activities to serve the community. One such initiative is the Partners' Appreciation Day Fundraiser 2024 and 2025. She galvanised her EXCO team to raise funds to prepare gift hampers containing daily necessities as tokens of appreciation for the school cleaners, gardeners and security guards.
- Alannah's confidence and eloquence also made her the student emcee for major events and dialogues like the MOE Youth Engagement with Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, in 2025.
- She actively contributed to youth engagement platforms like the Inter-SHG Youth Dialogue 2024, the 14<sup>th</sup> S Rajaratnam Lecture 2025, and the Mixed Youth Engagement Dialogue 2025.
- Alannah also participated in community outreach projects like the Adopt-A-Block, where she engaged with residents in Choa Chu Kang through games and interactive activities that fostered community bonding.

**LEE KUAN YEW MODEL STUDENT AWARD 2026  
RECIPIENT PROFILE**

**Name:** Crystal Jade Tan  
**Course:** *Nitec* in Mechatronics & Robotics  
**College:** ITE College West

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### **The Fearless Explorer**

Always ready to step out of her comfort zone, Crystal chose to pursue unique interests, such as playing the guzheng in primary school and exploring robotics at ITE despite having no prior knowledge in these. Fuelled by a fearless curiosity, she decided to pursue *Nitec* in Mechatronics and Robotics to gain exposure to electrical, electronics and mechanical engineering within a single discipline. She eventually emerged as a top student from the course and even clinched awards at robotics and technology competitions.

Despite facing financial and caregiving challenges at home, Crystal remains undaunted. Living in a rental flat and receiving social assistance, she had to balance her studies with part-time work to support her younger brother and parents, who are unable to work due to chronic health conditions. She manages these heavy commitments with maturity and self-reliance, viewing them not as a burden, but as a challenge to be met with a positive mindset.

Grounded by her own experiences, Crystal pays it forward through weekly tuition for younger students and participation in elderly outreach initiatives. During an overseas community service trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand, she conducted storytelling for children, constructed a water filtration system, and refurbished school facilities. Crystal's grit, excellence, and genuine care for others make her a true role model for her peers.

### **From the Heart**

*"It is really not about the awards. The real win is not a single moment of success. It is that stubborn inner fire that keeps you going, even when things are quiet. Stop waiting and just keep your own spark alive, no matter the odds or how much time passes. Your own hope will burn brighter than anything else. That applies to everything - at school, at home, and with your friends."*

### **Life after ITE**

Crystal is pursuing a Diploma in Robotics and Mechatronics at Nanyang Polytechnic. She plans to work in the engineering sector after completing her diploma.

### **Top Achievements**

- Crystal led her team into winning the third prize in the tertiary category of National Robotics Competition 2024, where they developed an IoT-enabled flood mitigation system that captures storm water in carpark tanks for sustainable reuse in estate maintenance and irrigation.
- She was part of a team that won the Lee Kuan Yew Technology Award in 2025, creating an app that can help users track fresh food supplies stored in a refrigerator and monitor food expiration dates to reduce food waste.
- For her academic performance, she received the Keppel Care Foundation Scholarship 2025, EAGLES Award 2024 and 2023, Edusave Skills Award 2024, and Edusave Certificate of Academic Achievement 2023
- She graduated with a perfect GPA of 4.0 and was on the Director's List for three consecutive terms spanning 2024 and 2025.
- In her college, she was conferred the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Star Award 2025 and Gold Award 2024 for her service contributions.
- As the President of Automation and Robotics Club, she successfully led recruitment activities and increased awareness and participation in robotics initiatives.