

EMBARGOED TILL FRIDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2016, 7.15 PM

NIE CELEBRATES LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME GRADUATION

MEDIA RELEASE

**GRADUATION DINNER: 14 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.15 PM, SHERATON TOWERS
SINGAPORE, BALLROOM 1 AND 2 (LEVEL 2), 39 SCOTTS ROAD, SINGAPORE 228230**

A total of **27 Singapore school leaders** will receive their certificates for the Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) at a graduation dinner to be held on Friday, 14 October 2016 at The Sheraton Towers Singapore.

For the past six months, each LEP participant has been leading a **Creative Action Project (CAP) that holds potential value-adding change at their attachment school**. Many of these are exciting initiatives that can lead to significant improvements in student learning. Of the 27 participants, **three** outstanding participants will receive an award from **Guest of Honour, Mr Ng Chee Meng, Acting Minister for Education (Schools) and Senior Minister of State for Transport**. This year, the **Valedictorian** of the cohort is **Mrs Allison Lim-Choong**. She will receive the **Lee Kuan Yew Award** for demonstrating the best overall performance in the Leaders in Education Programme.

The LEP is a full-time executive programme by the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore for talented educators selected by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore for school leadership.

LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The LEP focuses on innovation and the creation of new knowledge. It stimulates the participants' thinking through a series of challenging learning experiences. These include working on a Creative Action Project (CAP), dialogues with senior Education Ministry officials and an overseas study trip. The main parties involved in this collaborative effort include NIE academics, MOE staff and principal mentors. The exposure offered during LEP serves as a platform to address a range of issues that are seen as critical to the development of participants' leadership skills to new levels. This allows them to better facilitate and lead in impactful ways at the schools they will be posted to.

Since its inception in 2000, the LEP has also attracted much international attention on how Singapore prepares our school leaders before their appointment. NIE has welcomed government ministers and a host of overseas educators to observe this leadership programme. During LEP, participants have the opportunity to make an overseas study trip in their small groups to gain first-hand knowledge on education initiatives by well-established institutes and corporations in other countries. For the 2016 cohort, participants visited countries such as Germany, United Kingdom, Canada, Finland and Estonia.

For the programme, a list of prizes and awards, please refer to **Annexes A, B and C**

ABOUT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (NIE), SINGAPORE

The National Institute of Education (NIE) has its early roots as the pioneering Teachers' Training College (TTC) founded in 1950. In 1973, the Institute of Education (IE) was formed from the old TTC it was established as an autonomous institute of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in 1991. Today, NIE is among the world's top education institutes, renowned for its excellence in teacher education and educational research and nested within the world's top young university aged 50 years and below.

NIE leverages on a deep multilateral partnership with the University, local schools and the Singapore Ministry of Education to provide evidence-informed, practice-focused and values-based programmes and initiatives for teaching professionals and school leaders. The close partnership among NIE, MOE and the Singapore schools forms the cornerstone of Singapore's top-performing education system.

NIE has played a key and pivotal role in shaping and developing Singapore's teaching workforce. In a dynamic education milieu, NIE prepares teachers with the requisite values, skills and knowledge to meet the demands of 21st century learners and classrooms. The NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars Programme (TSP) is the latest addition to the suite of premier scholars programmes at NTU. It is aimed at preparing tomorrow's leaders of education who possess the passion and aspiration to inspire, nurture and lead our next generation of students. The programme offers a unique opportunity for both personal and international development and inter-disciplinary exposure through seminars, conference presentations, and leadership programmes research mentorships, internships and overseas attachments that help to broaden students' perspectives and to develop the holistic reflective practitioner.

Besides undergraduate education, NIE has built a strong reputation for evidence-informed higher degree, executive leadership, professional development (in-service) programmes and courses that aim to develop students to become thought leaders, disciplinary experts and skilful researchers who can bring about critical change in their area of work.

NIE was ranked top 14 in the world for research and impact and excellence in the field of Education. Our research philosophy is focused on impacting school practices, enhancing programmes, informing policy formation and ultimately, improving student learning outcomes. Our vibrant research culture has seen us placing consistently among the top in the Bibliometric Indicators of Publications in education-related research and in the QS World University Rankings in Education in recent years.

Our increased international reputation, has allowed us to further intensify our global influence through collaborative partnerships with other renowned institutions in the world. The Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change is an example of a joint degree offered with Teachers College, Columbia University in the US and the most recent partnership was a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed with the University of Cambridge to facilitate collaborative research and enhance our students' learning experience.

For its next lap of growth, the Institute aims to amplify its impact on the local and global education fraternity via a three-pronged approach of growing its knowledge capital and signature programmes, forging and enhancing key partnerships and boosting its institutional capacity and corporate professionalism.

For more information, please visit: www.nie.edu.sg

NIE LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME GRADUATION DINNER AND CEREMONY

Date: Friday, 14 October 2016
Venue: Ballrooms 1 and 2 (Level 2),
The Sheraton Towers Singapore
39 Scotts Road Singapore 228230
Time: From 7.30 PM to 10.00 PM

PROGRAMME

- 6.45 PM Level 2, Foyer of Ballroom for reception
- 7.15 PM All guests to be seated
- 7.30 PM Event Commences
- Welcome Address by Professor Tan Oon Seng, Director, National Institute of Education, Singapore
 - Address by Guest-of-Honour, **Mr Ng Chee Meng, Acting Minister for Education (Schools), Ministry of Education, and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Transport**
- 7.50 PM Dinner commences
- 8.25 PM Presentation of Certificates and Prizes
- Presentation of Certificates to Graduands by Ms Chan Lai Fung, Chairperson, NIE Council and Permanent Secretary (Education), Ministry of Education
 - Presentation of Prizes to Award Winners by Guest-of-Honour
 - Speech by Valedictorian, LEP 2016, Mrs Allison Lim-Chong
- 10.00 PM End of Dinner

*Note: The above events are in sequence

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(Timings may vary slightly on the day of event)

PRIZES AND AWARDS

LEADERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME

教育领袖课程结业典礼

The Lee Kuan Yew Award

李光耀奖

This prize is awarded to the participant who demonstrates the best overall performance in the Leaders in Education Programme.

Name: Mrs Allison Lim-Chong

Email: allison_lim@schools.gov.sg

Mrs Allison Lim-Choong is the Valedictorian of the LEP 2016 cohort

Academy of Principals Prize for Leadership Learning

领导能力学习校长学会奖

This prize is awarded to the participant who exemplifies the highest level of learning through the journal in the Leaders in Education Programme.

Name: Mdm Sheree Kuek Yen Yen

Email: Sheree_KUEK@schools.gov.sg

Dr Ruth Wong Medal Award

王惠卿博士奖

The Dr Ruth Wong Medal is awarded to the participant who exemplifies the highest level of performance in the Creative Action Project (CAP) in the Leaders in Education Programme.

Name: Mr Lee Peck Ping

Email: LEE_peck_ping@moe.gov.sg

For more details about the Valedictorian, her CAP and the winning CAP, please refer to **Annexe C**.

Leaders in Education Programme (LEP) 2016 Valedictorian Profile

LEP 2016 Valedictorian, Mrs Allison Lim-Chong, has been living her dream. She shared: “I have always wanted to teach because every experience is built upon the previous, and these constantly help me to grow and become even better as an education professional.”

She first embarked on her career in relief and contract stints where she honed her passion to make learning interesting for her young charges. Over her 10 years in the teaching profession, she has taught students of varying capabilities at eight different schools. Allison strongly believes that helping students to stretch their potential means inspiring them as a teacher. She added, “It doesn’t matter which school or class I go to, what matters is going the extra mile to understand my students and how I show them I care too.”

Allison honed her leadership skills as Head of Department in Northlight School and as Vice-Principal in CHIJ St Nicholas Girl’s Secondary School. These were welcome opportunities to lead and shape curriculum which maximises learning and inculcates moral values like social inclusivity. She acknowledges that working her way up from relief teaching to head of department are experiences that strengthened her commitment to her future role as well.

She added: “Teaching students of all levels solidified my belief that effective teaching and eventual learning begins with the understanding of who they are and how they cope. The past six months with NIE academics and Principal mentors have also provided invaluable insights and lessons that resonate with my values; to be a consistently open-minded learner, sincere teacher and caring leader.”

Taking a page out of her journey, she led a Creative Action Project (CAP) in her LEP studies that saw a class of Canberra Secondary School students use photography and videography as a means of expressing their learning and understanding. To her, this was a way to help nurture civic-mindedness and build students’ analytical skills (for more details, read on below).

Creative Action Project (CAP) by Mrs Allison Lim-Chong: “CANdid Camera @ Canberra Secondary School”

Attachment School: Canberra Secondary School

Executive Summary: The project aims to tap on Photography and Videography to reinforce the learning and understanding of the Design Thinking protocol and processes in students which enable them to develop critical and creative thinking skills for problem solving and cultivating compassion. The Project involved collaboration with NEXUS, a CCA where student leaders engage with residents in the neighbourhood and educating them on health matters. The project involves photography and videography activities that which will help to reinforce the learning and understanding of the Design Thinking protocol and processes through deliberate choice and association of LENS. The acronym, LENS, tackles an Adapted Design Thinking Protocol that encompasses:

- “L” for label the problem (to understand the issues, ask many questions such as What ifs? Why a problem?);
- “E” for experimentation (ideation);
- “N” for notion (take different perspectives, zoom in, zoom out, form corresponding images to the perspectives taken); and
- “S” for solution (build prototypes, try many, “fail often, fail early”)

The activities require students to engage the community and schools, to document problems and issues so as to propose solutions. These steps to solving a problem will challenge students to think critically and creatively, always aiming to meet a human need or to better the lives of others, especially the disadvantaged. These simple steps, when internalised, aims to help students be analytical when they approached any situations. This would also enhance students' ability to analyse EL, Social Studies or Humanities essay questions.

The project has been positively received with Canberra Secondary School implementing it in the NEXUS CCA. The school is considering infusing the LENS protocol into the school's Values in Action (VIA) Framework so as to provide the fundamental Design Thinking element into all VIA projects

Winning Creative Action Project by Mr Lee Peck Ping: *“Developing Cognitive Empathy in Privileged Students using the E³mpathy model - Experience, Enquire and Excite”*

Attachment School: Anglo-Chinese School (Junior)

Analysis of the future megatrends points towards the lack of empathy being a chief cause for social divide and social instability. Drawing from research studies, it was found that developing cognitive empathy coupled with emotions is a more effective and sustainable way to change students' beliefs, as compared to relying just on affective empathy which could lead to desensitisation. With the vision to develop ACS (Junior) into a school with social reconstruction ideals, as a start, this Creative Action Project seeks to better develop the essential element of cognitive empathy in this group of students from very privileged backgrounds. Using the E³mpathy model of Experience, Enquire and Excite, both quantitative and qualitative results have shown that this model is effective in developing students' cognitive empathy, making them realize the invisibility of their privileges and motivating them towards advocating for the less privileged.

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