

# Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal



## Moulding a Brighter Future

**Esther Joice Tan Xuan Ting**

Higher Nitec in Early Childhood  
ITE College Central

Inspired by the care of her secondary school teachers, Esther developed an aspiration to be an educator. She also looked up to her aunt, who was an early childhood educator. This led her to join the *Higher Nitec* in Early Childhood Education, after completing the *Nitec* in Business Services. Esther's education journey however, has been fraught with difficulties. When she was in Secondary Three, her father contracted cancer. This was followed by multiple health issues over the years. As the only child, she shouldered the responsibility of caring for him.

Despite the challenging situation, Esther remained determined to excel at ITE. With a love for singing, she joined ITE's That Acapella Group where she became its President and Music Director. She was also the Senior President of the Student Icons group, which hosts campus tours for secondary schools. Distinguishing herself as an all-rounder, Esther's greatest motivation is to make her parents proud.

### AFTER ITE

Esther is pursuing a Diploma in Early Childhood Development & Education at Temasek Polytechnic. She plans to take a degree in Early Childhood Education after attaining her Diploma, and build a career as an early childhood educator.

### GROWTH THROUGH ADVERSITY

"My greatest takeaway from ITE is learning to embrace and take on challenges as they come. This is the spirit that led me to achieve so much more than I thought I could. I believe in the principle - nothing ventured, nothing gained. At ITE, I am thankful to have many opportunities to grow my potential as a leader and performer. Having to manage multiple commitments while coping with family circumstances was very challenging. In this journey, I am grateful for the unwavering support of my class advisor, Ms Moon Tan, and my CCA in-charge, Mr Julian Wong. They showed care for me, and were always there whenever I needed help or someone to talk to."

### TOP ACHIEVEMENTS

- Esther achieved a perfect Grade Point Average score of 4.0, and was on the Director's List for all terms from 2022 to 2023.
- For her outstanding CCA achievements, she was awarded the ITE CCA Medal in 2024.
- Shining on the global stage, Esther led a team from That Acapella Group to clinch a Diploma award at the 2022 Busan Choral Festival and Competition in South Korea.