

Unique Fashion Design Competition-Young Talents, Unbounded Creativity

(Photo/Text: Hsieh I-chun, Division of Academic Senior High Education)



National Chia Yi Home Economics Vocational High School has organized the Unique Fashion Design Competition with the objective of developing the diverse talents of their students and hence making them more competitive in the real world. The competition, which was open to all residents, teachers, and high school students in the community, is a culmination of the Fashion Design Course offered by the school's Fashion Department. The program incorporates activity-based teaching and learning, and the competition serves as a platform for students to showcase their creative works. Principal Yang Shih-chun shared that the competition allowed students to compete and work together at the same time during the process of spotting opportunities to play up each team member's strengths and style. The principal also believes that such a process will help students to develop teamwork, resourcefulness, and problem-solving skills, all of which are critical skills that the students will need as they enter the workforce in the future.

National Chia Yi Home Economics Vocational High School is a pioneer school in the implementation of the 2019 curriculum. In 2013, the school rolled out the Fashion Design Course, helmed by the Fashion Department, to enhance students' ability to produce creative

designs and to appreciate the works of other designers. The success of this program has led it to become a niche program of the school. In 2017, the school made some adjustments to the program after it became a pioneer school piloting the new curriculum. In line with the new curriculum, the school began to offer elective programs to their students with the objective of offering a more broad-based curriculum. In 2018, the school began to offer Garment Production, Draping, and Fashion Design classes under the "Skills Program," and these classes laid the foundation for the Fashion Design Course that will become the school's special program in 2021.

The visionary curriculum planning of National Chia Yi Home Economics Vocational High School allows students to apply what they learn in their specialization to their designs. By integrating avant-garde designs, the latest trends in fashion, street style, and other elements observed in daily life into their creations, the students came up with a wide range of designs for apparel and accessories. The unbounded creativity embodied in the students' works stunned the crowd at the unique Fashion Design Competition and won countless compliments from all in attendance.

Chuang Ya-shu, the Director of the Internship Program at National Chia Yi Home Economics Vocational High School, pointed out that the unique Fashion Design Competition is both a showcase of the students' work as well as a platform for them to demonstrate their skills. At the same time that the competition provides opportunities for students to learn about teamwork and creativity, it also allows them to gain practical experience that would be beneficial for their future careers. With these skills and experience, the students will be better prepared for the next stage of their lives, be it further studies or the start of their careers.

"The fashion showcase brings together skills and creativity." Principal Yang shared that, by adopting a competition mode to showcase the works of students, students can better achieve breakthroughs in their learning and gain self-confidence in the process. The competition allows students to both compete and work together as they search for opportunities to play up each

team member's strengths and style. Such a process embodies the guiding principles of "Initiative," "Collaboration," and "Mutually Beneficial" highlighted in the new curriculum. National Chia Yi Home Economics Vocational High School has done well in its advance planning and preparation for the implementation of the new curriculum. Hence, when the time came for the actual execution of the program, the school was already able to overcome challenges in timetabling and venue allocation. What's more, the school was able to design a program based on the principles and values that are core to the new curriculum and help their students develop a range of competencies and skills to increase their competitiveness in the workforce.