

The 2016 Presidential Education Award Winners Are Here!

(Photo and Article by Jhou Li-jie, Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



MOE has published the list of the 2016 Presidential Education Award winners on June 18. There are a total of 56 students winning this award. MOE said that the schools at all levels, together with other social organizations, recommended 315 students for the first stage of assessment. The education administration authorities formed a selection committee to assess and select candidates. Based on the eligibility criteria and the key qualifications, the committee selected 155 candidates for the second stage of assessment by March 5, 2016. After a field visit conducted by the second stage selection committee, a meeting was convened for the recommendation of a winner list for every category. The recommendation was later assessed and approved by the presidential education award committee. There are 56 award winners, among which 8 belongs to the group of community college students; 12 belongs to the group of senior and vocational high school students; 18 belongs to the group of junior high school students; and finally 18 belongs to the group of elementary school students.

The winners of the 2016 presidential education award strive and thrive through tough times; they can walk with their head held high for being able to excel among their peers, edging out as the role

model for community college, senior, junior high and elementary school students, respectively. Their passion for life, filial and benevolent conduct, dedication and service, utilization of the strengths, and the courage to face life's challenges all exert a positive influence on the society, thereby setting a good example for the public. They have special capabilities and are the paradigm in the areas of moral integrity, folk art, science and technology, and sports and information. Presidential education award is founded with a goal to highlight good virtue and special talents. It is also meant to motivate students to follow the example of a virtuous and wise teacher. The student winners need to be recognized and cared for by the public, thereby transmitting the value of positive attitude toward life.

The award ceremony is scheduled to be held on July 8, 2016. The winner student are welcomed by President Tsai personally and they will receive a certificate, a trophy and scholarship (NTD\$250,000 for community college students; NTD\$ 200,000 for senior and vocational high school students; NTD\$ 150,000 for junior high and elementary school students) as encouragement.

The winner list of the 2016 presidential education award was published in the Breaking News page on the website of K-12 Education Administration of MOE (<http://www.k12ea.gov.tw/>) as well as in the 2016 Presidential Education Award prefecture on the website of National Tung-Shih Senior High School (<http://140.130.199.52/president/>), the host school responsible for the selection, for public enquiry. In the upcoming weeks, there will be a series of press release issued every week to make public the good deeds done by the winner students. We first introduce the 7 good deeds this week and the winners are Ciou Yi-hao, Huang Jing-teng, Tu Wen-hsuan, Han Ci-sian, Yang Yu-jing, Yang Min-jia, and Kating Adaw Langasan.

A. Ciou Yi-hao (Community College Student Group): Explore the heart, and strive forward courageously.

There is nothing impossible for someone like him who never gives up. Ciou Yi-hao was deaf and mute. However, inspired and encouraged by his coach, he strove forward courageously and broke the barrier of soundlessness, therefore creating a colorful life for himself in deaflympics.

Yi-hao comes from a deaf and mute family. His parents, his brother and him all live in a soundless world. When he was in the third grade, he had large vestibular aqueduct, resulting in hearing loss. His father is a painter and they live on his father's wages. While studying in Taipei School for the Hearing Impaired, Yi-hao's coach inspired him to explore his full potential in the area of karate, track and field. Hence, he found his melodic world in sports. He practiced hard and became passionate for life. He once hurt his elbow and sprained the ligament on his left knee in

practice session. He experienced fatigue and exhaustion. However, he managed to break his physical barriers on the sports field. To him, sky's the limit. His fire of love for life burned even brighter. He made sports history, for he won gold medal in javelin throws in 2015 Asia Pacific Deaf Games, and bronze medal in the category of male kumite of karate in Sofia 2013 Summer Deaflympics.

Because of his positive and proactive attitude, he studies strenuously, forges ahead, breaks barriers and explores his heart, he eventually shines out in domestic and national competitions. He also, on behalf of our nation, wins honor for our country. In the future, he hopes to be a coach instructing disabled children and helping them overcome low self-esteem and social withdrawal. His attempt to make contributions to the society is the best example in the campus.

B. Huang Jing-teng (Senior and Vocational High School Student Group): Complete Oneself, and Embrace Life's Challenges.

Jing-teng has lived with the shackles and chains of multiple disabilities since he was born. He was seriously ill in the third grade. Hereafter, he lost his vision and hearing. Living in a dark and silent world, he could barely connect to the outside world. However, the window to the outside world was opened and he began to seize the day learning through the guidance and assistance of his itinerant junior high school teacher.

Inspired by his teacher, Jing-teng summoned the courage to face disabilities, managed to accept himself, and solved life problems. He also seized every learning opportunity, faced the challenges of life, and tried his best to achieve diverse learning, thereby overcoming his congenital defects. He secured Level C Technician for Massage Certificate, as well as Hsinchu and Miaoli County Street Artist (Piano) Certificate. He also won first prize in 2014 National Braille Reading Competition for Visually Impaired Teachers and Students; and first prize in composition in the group of senior and vocational high school students in 2014 National Chinese Competition for Hearing Impaired. Moreover, he won special prize in the 7th Web Accessibility Essay Competition in 2015; and also special prize in cross-boundary music in the group of students in 23th Music Day for Visually Impaired.

Although vision and hearing loss frustrates Jing-teng, he holds a positive and proactive attitude toward learning. Eventually, he shines out in literature and music (piano). His development of diverse talents and overcoming of adversity deserves our admiration.

C. Tu Wen-hsuan (Senior and Junior High School Student Group): Soaring Against the Wind, and Achieve Personal Bests

Tu Wen-hsuan's hearing has impaired since she was a little kid, and she also had microtia. However, she worked harder than other people. Because of her positive attitude toward difficulties and diligence in furthering her progress, she won 5th prize in the event of Women's Singles as well as silver medal in the event of Team in World Deaf Badminton Championship 2015; gold medal in the event of Badminton Mixed Teams as well as bronze medal in the event of Badminton Women's Doubles in Asia Pacific Deaf Games Taoyuan 2015. Her outstanding performance wins honor for our country.

Wen-hsuan always hope that one day, despite the fact that she is disabled, she could stand in the spotlight. Her persistent hope drove her to break her physical and mental barriers resulting from her congenital deformed ears. While doing physical exercise, she shed blood, sweat and tears all together. On the other hand, she developed special abilities too, which gave her more confidence, and eventually managed to shine out on the stage. She loves to share her experience with other people now. Because of her persistence, teacher's support and great efforts, Wen-hsuan was chosen as one of the members of the national deaf badminton team in the first year of junior high school. She was the first female member in the male varsity team. She kept a balance between physical exercise and schoolwork. She sought opportunities to stand on the stage and shine, thereby proving the capabilities of the disabled. The reasons why she could rise against the wind were that she had a passion for love, remained a positive and proactive attitude, faced up to adversity, and broke physical barriers.

She has proven herself to be able to create value of her life, take pride in herself, win honor for her motherland, and become a role model for the disabled.

D. Han Ci-sian (Junior High School Student Group): Courage and Persistence from his Grandma.

Ci-sian's parents were divorced when he studied in the kindergarten; hence, he was reared by his grandma. When his grandma had to do a kidney cleanse, the family of the grandparent rearing children faced financial hardship. One day, he watched his cousin's performance in 2014 Asian Games—his cousin won gold medal in the category of karate, he was much inspired and his capability in karate subsequently unraveled.

To alleviate the financial burden of his grandma, he left home and went to a remote karate dojo for the training. He is good-natured, simple, strict to himself, positive and proactive. He missed his family very much, but he sublimed the nostalgia by working hard. He left many bruises on his body and sweated a lot in the dojo. As a member of the big and aggressive-minded athletic family, Ci-sian developed strong willpower and high self-esteem. There is a saying that goes, "Birth is much but breeding is more." In the karate arena, he made several achievements, thereby exploiting his talents to full potential. He is the living example of that saying. He won gold medal in male kumite-70kg of Men' s Group A in the group of junior high school student in 2015 Taipei City Guting Karate Championships; silver medal in individual kata in 2015 Nantou County Sports Games; and also silver medal in the category of male kumite-70kg in the group of junior high school student in 2015 National High School Athletic Games.

He hopes that he can open a karate dojo in the future, be filial to his grandma, make contributions to the society, and help children in distressed circumstances. His proactive attitude, filial conduct, and success in overcoming adversity deserve much praise.

E. Yang Yu-jing (Junior High School Student Group): Morph into a Butterfly, and the Future is Not Just a Dream.

Facing the tough challenges of cancer and her parent's divorce, Yang spent the rest of her life seizing the day learning actively with courage. She hopes she can exploit her talents for speech, using that talent to serve people.

After her parents got divorced, Yu-jing was reared by her grandma. She had a talent for languages; therefore, she signed up for many Taiwanese story telling competitions. She was optimistic and loved to help people. She also studied hard. She went to school for learning as usual even though she suffered the toll of chemotherapy and the distress of hair loss after having cancer. She knew deeply that she can only live once; therefore, she lived her life in the most serious way, and studied very hard with indomitable perseverance. She demonstrated high academic performance at school. Her grandma once gave her a pep talk, "The thing that you shall feel frightened is not the state of being sick, but the thought of giving up." She really lived up to her grandma's expectations. She always let out a bright smile, even at the moment her body ached. She took part in classroom activities on volunteering and was elected the model with filial piety behaviors.

She regards cancer as a blessing in disguise. Because of it, she realizes later in life that life is short and precious. She devotes much more of her efforts to spreading happiness and love around as

well as teaching her mother tongue to people. She won the prize of excellent work in a painting contest and 2nd prize in a Taiwanese reading contest. She hopes to be an orator in the future because in that way she could give speech to those in need and encourage them. She is a good learning example for students because she strives for progress with determination in adversity.

F. Yang Min-jia (Elementary School Student Group): A Little Nurse Shows Filial Piety.

Min-jia, a six grader, was precocious because she had to take care of her grandma who had to do a kidney cleanse after her mother returned to Indonesia to take care of Min-jia 's grandpa for a long time. Yang had to get up several times at night to care for her grandma. Like a little nurse, she knew very well the medical procedure. Medical professionals were much impressed and touched by her care for grandma. Her filial conduct spread to schools, villages and towns.

Min-jia said, " I did it because it is my duty." She thought being filial to the elder member of the family was natural and right. She knew her father and elder brother were tired after a hard day's work, so she shouldered the burden of taking care of her grandma. She would even play the flute for her grandma to alleviate the pain of dialysis. Besides, her academic performance was excellent. She was the vice class leader and teacher's assistant as well. She also volunteered to help classmates do homework and solve life's problems. Her classmates said she was a good helper.

She, a child of the New Resident, is precocious, optimistic, and responsible. She also has the qualities of a leader. She actively offers help to people. Her good moral character and her persistence in overcoming adversity deserve our admiration.

G. Kating Adaw Langasan (Elementary School Student Group): A Sunny Girl Who Traces her Roots and Follows in her Parent's Footsteps

When she was little, she was on the journey with her parents in tracing their roots. Growing up in a poor family, she developed good humanism qualities. She is quite positive, proactive, diligent, attentive, and persistent. She played a part in a play in her parent's theater group. She took painstaking efforts to complete the documentaries about Taiwanese aborigines, thereby voicing for the underprivileged. She spread aboriginal culture and she let action speak for herself. Her outstanding performance deserved recognition.

Because her father was the founder of Langasan Theatre, she inherited the talent for acting from her parents. She followed her parents to England and French for performing in Edinburgh International Festival and Festival d'Avignon Off, carrying cameras that weighed up to 1 kg with her.

The documentary she filmed was entitled "Living out your dreams even though you are in debt," in which every dots and bits of Taiwanese aboriginal culture and art' performing abroad were recorded. The film went on tour on the east coast, attracting the attention and applause from many media and indigenous elderly.

Kating Adaw Langasan, a girl of action, was also a little director who used fluent Amis, percussion, dance, and documentaries to display Taiwanese aborigines' vigor and vitality. She passes down the torch of her culture, a culture that showcased the harmonious coexistence between Taiwanese aborigines and nature. Through her action, the outside world was able to witness the dynamism in life of the aboriginal people. Her passion for life and realization of life goal is inspiring and deserve much acclaim.