

## 9 Senior and Vocational High Schools Nominated for 2015 Teaching Excellence Award

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The Teaching Excellence Award was established in 2003 by the Ministry of Education (MOE) to encourage outstanding teaching teams. Ever since then, the Teaching Excellence Award has been conferred annually. In 2015, 25 teaching teams were nominated for this award in the category of senior high schools. After secondary review by the selection committee, 9 teams stood out against all the others. The nominees of the award are National Da-Hu Agricultural Industrial Vocational High School, Taipei Municipal Yu Cheng High School, National Lo-Tung Senior High School, Taichung Shin Min High School, Taipei Municipal Wanfang High School, New Taipei Municipal Banqiao Senior High School, Taipei First Girls High School, New Taipei Municipal Zhonghe Senior High School, and Taoyuan Municipal Yung-Feng High School (listed by their numbers in the secondary review). These outstanding teaching teams were recognized for their contributions in the award ceremony held at Changhua County Yuanlin Performance Hall on September 11, 2015.

Among the 9 nominees, the teaching team from National Da-Hu Agricultural Industrial Vocational High School took advantage of time after school and holidays and made endeavors

to strengthen craftsman skills and competence for students from rural areas. They were inspired by the apprenticeship of German craftsmanship, and followed that model to lay the foundation for Taiwan's vocational and industrial talents. Taipei Municipal Yu Cheng High School incorporated creative thinking and note-taking skills to produce the "Self-Instruction and Self-Learning Sheet." It provided students self-evaluation opportunities to showcase their learning accomplishments and personal features, and encouraged them to capitalize on their strengths and combine it with practical skill, so that they can display their willingness to adapt.

National Lo-Tung Senior High School integrated various opinions from parents, teachers, and students to compile senior high student's daily schedule and developed the so-called GPS, i.e. "A Learning Map" throughout three years in senior high school. The Learning Map serves as a blueprint for three-year senior high's life. It incorporated every teaching tool developed throughout the three years into each subject teaching. Taichung Shin Min High School expanded the limited indoor learning into outdoor learning. Science courses were vested with humanity elements through various practical courses and field investigations. Thereby, students learned more about local human culture and environmental features, and their learning horizon is more expanded.

Apart from focusing on the enhancement of teacher's competence, the competitors put much emphasis on students' creative thinking and actions. In Taipei Municipal Wanfang High School, "Creative Drama" has been implemented in Performing Arts courses, while "Aesthetics in the Corner" was showcased in Arts and Visual Arts courses. The school developed multiple teaching designs, exhibitions, performances, and assessments that are cross-subject, cross-disciplinary, and cross-issue oriented. New Taipei Municipal Banqiao Senior High School provided kids with proper opportunities to redefine and experience volunteer spirit, to further identify one's value, to explore future possibility, and to lend a helping hand to influence more people's lives. Taipei First Girls High School explored inquiry teaching and differentiated instructions through the cross disciplinary course, "Chemistry Delivery Service." Teachers and students provided speedy and effective science-learning service, just like the idea of speedy delivery.

New Taipei Municipal Zhonghe Senior High School developed seed teams through E-courses, with the ultimate aim of assisting the school toward becoming a cloud computing school. Teachers and students participated in action-learning plan, and developed an

innovative teaching model AMAZE on their own. The school incorporated specially-designed issues into their English courses, with an aim to educate the new generation students with international mobility. Taoyuan Municipal Yung-Feng High School combined the introduction, identification, and categorization of plants on campus with scientific drafting, as well as cultural and creative design, to develop a set of ecology arts courses, thereby integrating science and life through creative design.

Each nominated school has demonstrated their unique features and has been recognized and acclaimed by the selection committee. The team that won the gold medal received a prize of NTD 600,000 while the one that won the silver medal received NTD 300,000. The MOE announced the results at Changhua County Yuanlin Performance Hall on September 11, 2015.