

# Block-building Player Becomes Molder Expert—Mold Maker with Golden Hands

(Courtesy of the Division of Academic Senior High Education)



Bo-Hao Su from the National Pingtung Industrial Vocational High School (PTIVS) defeated the competitors from the groups of adult and college competitors in the 49th National Skills Competition and won the gold medal in the mold-making category, breaking the record in the 82 years of the school's history as the first gold medalist in the group of adult competitors at the National Skills Competition; and he received the award presented by Chu Chen, Secretary-General to the President.

Su, the gold medalist in mold making, is a 12th grader at PTIVS. He has been a super fan of building blocks since he was a child and has been playing with all kinds of building blocks since kindergarten. During his ninth grade of junior high school, he participated in a pull-out skill program in the field of power machinery, which planted a seed for him to become a competitor in the skills competitions. Later, he was admitted to PTIVS through the special achievement-based admission. With a strong passion for building blocks, he aimed to find out how the building blocks were produced and how they were made; after learning about the fact that they were made through molds, he dedicated himself into the field of molds.

Living in Fangliao Township, which was adjacent to Fangshan Township from which President Ing-Wen Tsai came from, he sacrificed his time to hang out with his peers and often spent more than 10 hours a day making workpieces at school despite the long distance between the school and home. Experiencing failures and setbacks constantly, he has enhanced his skills over the course of past two years; now as an expert in molds, he has been admitted to the National Taiwan University of Science and Technology through the college entrance exam-free admission. The school invited President Tsai to participate in the event of the "National Pingtung Industrial Vocational High School Alumni Homecoming Day," at which she presented him with an honor banner of "Pride for Vocational Field" to motivate him. He said that his goal was to become a national competitor participating in international competitions on behalf of Taiwan and to bring glory back to Taiwan.

Zhi-Yuan Lin, Director of the Mechanical Department at PTIVS, recalled that Su aimed to become a competitor in the beginning of his studies at the department. With the support of the Vocational School Actualization Program launched by the K-12 Education Administration, PTIVS has strengthened its auxiliary training classes, purchased and improved machinery and equipments, and established a teacher community, which has optimized the collaborative atmosphere for its teachers and created a more learning-friendly teaching environment. Therefore, its students won four Golden Hand Awards and eight Prizes for Excellence in the 2019 National Industry-Related Skills Competition, winning awards in each of its eight major study areas and setting a new record in the school's history.