

2018 President Educational Award

In Recognition of Perseverance

(Courtesy of Wen-Lin Hu at the Division of Student Affairs and Campus Security)



The 2018 President Educational Award was held at the Office of the President, on July 6, 2018. President Tsai, Ing-Wen presented the award to 56 winners in person, acknowledging that these students were striving for the best, bravely living and learning, and not giving up dreaming when in predicaments. Each of them is an inspiring story to motivate people to stride forward.

The President Educational Award revolves around the idea that “one must strive to reverse unfavorable trends and unleash one’s potential.” Moving into its 18th year, this award has been awarded to 1,053 students, ranging from elementary and junior high school graduates to senior high schools and college students. The selection criteria have also expanded from "students in poverty or disabled students who work hard" to “students whose character and virtue have set an example” in the face of adversity and “students with outstanding special talents,” to motivate

more students, which has set a role model for students across the country to overcome difficulties, realize life's value, and demonstrate their special gifts.

The award-winning students were recognized by the President for overcoming their physical limitations, breaking through poverty, living bravely, studying hard, showcasing positive thinking and deeds, smiling in the face of adversity. In particular, their family members and teachers accompany them every step of the way and continue to showing care towards them, serving as the major driving force behind their endeavor. The student winners received the award from President Tsai and presented their own creations of paintings and drawing to President Tsai as a token of appreciation towards the government for their recognition and support.

A total of 56 students from colleges, senior high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools received the award this year, and the list of winners was announced by the Ministry of Education on May 18, 2018. Among them, Yi-Jie Li from the Fu Jen Catholic University, Yi-Nuo Wu from the Hsing Wu University, and Bo-Han Chen from the National Chiayi Senior High School have been recognized by the award once in different academic stages, respectively, and they have won the award for the second time this year. The age of the winners ranges from as young as 10 years old to 42 years old. Unfortunately, Xiang-Yun Qiu in the elementary school group (from Kaohsiung City), who was studying hard and upheld positive attitude, ended up subject to invasion of multiple cancer cells, such as medulloblastoma, and passed away on May 7, 2018; thus, her parents took the award on her behalf. With the recognition of the President Educational Award, President Tsai also expressed her love and admiration for her bravery and enthusiastic spirit.

These outstanding role models stride forward in the face of adversity and demonstrate their skills and abilities and passion for learning in different learning stages and areas. At first, 291 students were recommended countrywide, and after a prudent preliminary selection, 156 students were shortlisted for the seminal; then, 59 review committee members conducted school visits in person. Afterwards, a list of nominees for each group was submitted to and approved by

the President Educational Award Committee. In sum, a total of 56 students: eight college students, 12 senior high school students, 18 junior high school students, and 18 elementary school students were selected for the award.

The Ministry of Education is promoting the 2019 curricular framework and aims to help students develop independent learning and interactive communication abilities, and in turn expects to realize social participation, harmony, and reciprocity.

Based on the spirit of wholistic education, the curriculum development aims to promote students' self-motivation and peer interaction. The 2018 President Educational Award-winning students swim against turbulent flows, strive to learn, face adversity with optimism, and overcome their own original hardship and disadvantaged conditions. They love life, practice filial piety, study hard, show no fears of their own harsh conditions, and demonstrate their talents in their respective fields. Furthermore, they get along with their peers, share positivity with their friends, and display passion and enthusiasm for learning. All of this is worth recognition and approval.