

## 2022 Outstanding Contributions to Education Award Ceremony Recognizes Selfless Educators

(By Office of the Secretary)



On Dec. 1, the K-12 Education Administration of the Ministry of Education held a ceremony for the 2022 Outstanding Contributions to Education Awards to honor passionate educators who have made selfless contributions in their work. In total, 69 educators and 11 organizations were awarded. Feng-Ying Wang, chief secretary of the K-12 Education Administration, expressed her gratitude to all county and city offices of education and schools for their active participation in the nomination process. Each nominee had an extraordinary story to tell, and regardless of whether they received an award, nomination is an honor in itself. The K-12 Education Administration hopes that this award will allow touching stories from schools to be brought to the public and encourage even more educators to dedicate their efforts to creating a better educational environment.

The awards ceremony was held at Taiwan Provincial Administration Information Hall in Zhongxing New Village, Nantou County, and was hosted by Chief Secretary Wang. In attendance was Nantou County Department of Education vice chief Mei-Ling Wu, who

congratulated all awardees. The ceremony kicked off with a performance by Guulhelhe Djakulavu, a Paiwan vocalist and teacher at National Taitung Senior High School. Marvelous performances were also given by National Changhua Senior High School, National Nantou Special School, Jia-Ho Elementary School, Puli Junior High School, and National Chung-Hsing Senior High School, creating a cheerful atmosphere.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that 167 entries were received for this year's Outstanding Contributions to Education Awards, including 25 entries in the general senior high school category, 22 entries in the technical and vocational high school category, 27 entries in the junior high school category, 46 entries in the elementary school category, and 47 entries in the mixed category (13 entries for preschool, 11 entries for special education, and 23 organizations). After a preliminary and secondary evaluation, 12 awardees were selected from the general senior high school category, 10 from technical and vocational high school, 13 from junior high school, 23 from elementary school, and 22 from the mixed category (six from preschool, five from special education, and 11 organizations), for a total of 80 awards.

This year's awardees were considerably diverse, comprising not only 57 teachers, but also 12 members of staff who all had touching and inspiring stories. One of the awardees, Kuan-Hsien Lee, director of National Nantou Senior High School, has been teaching for 30 years. A passionate teacher who has also taken on administrative duties, he is an active innovator in education and a guide for students who have gone on to win numerous awards. His selfless dedication to education is admirable. In recent years, he has been working to boost the school's internship program by combining emerging technology education and maker education programs to reach out to rural areas and community junior high schools, with excellent results.

Another awardee, Yu-Ying Wang, is a teacher at Shu-Te Home Economics & Commercial High School in Kaohsiung City. Wang has served in the school for 41 years and upholds the belief that being an ordinary teacher makes extraordinary students, and every child has a place in life

meant for them and a stage of their own. Wang hopes to play the role of a mentor and guardian in her students' lives.

Ming-Hsuan Ho, a teacher at Wuchang Junior High School in Taipei City, has been the convener of a class for the visually impaired for 12 years. Because he himself also has a severe visual impairment, Ho holds empathy for his students and feels a calling to help them enjoy a safe school life. Ho teaches students through example and verbal instruction so that they can take care of themselves at school and participate in sports and fitness. He also emphasizes advocacy, and designs relevant content according to the individual needs of visually impaired students, advocating for them by sharing this different part of our world from as early as school orientation. During the day, Ho safeguards the young students in their studies, but also takes care of their needs and provides support to parents after hours, something many parents of visually impaired or physically or mentally challenged students rely on.

In Changhua County, Pao-Lien Hung, a staff member of the SinSheng Elementary School, has been serving the school for decades, and has not only been dedicated in her duties, but has even gone above and beyond. With the philosophy of "service is good deeds," Hung is constantly spreading the seeds of virtue and letting love grow, dedicating half of her youthful years to the school so that every child can learn and grow up happily and peacefully.

An award was also granted to the Chia-Chi Senior High School Science Service Club, which designed a series of interesting science experiments for students, helping children in rural areas learn science while having fun. All the teaching aids and materials used by the instructors are derived from waste materials from daily life or from everyday materials that are readily available. Their activities allow youth in rural areas to experience education through life, and not just through their junior high studies, further sowing the seeds of science education in Taiwan. Another award winner, the National Hsin Hua Senior High School Alumni Association, noticed many students who encountered hardships in the course of their studies, but still showed strong and resilient learning ability. Therefore, they took action to provide concrete resources to

help students overcome financial difficulties. The association has also donated an alumni commemoration wall in order to connect more alumni to their alma mater and to assist the school in its academic development.

The K-12 Education Administration stated that there is no shortage of dedicated educators in the many corners of our society. In order to let people from all walks of life witness more touching deeds in education, this public award ceremony encourages and recognizes the awardees, whose love for education abounds, and serves to raise the enthusiasm of all educators to continuously strive to improve Taiwan's educational environment.