

**Action Community for
Entrepreneurship**

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Senior Minister of State,
Ministry of Trade & Industry
Ministry of National Development

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For Immediate Release

Celebrating Student Entrepreneurship

- The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), its youth wing, EDGE (Empower, Develop and Groom Entrepreneurs), and Quest Ventures held their inaugural Quest Ventures-EDGE National Youth Entrepreneurship Award with Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and National Development as the Guest-of-Honour
- The Award aims to celebrate the achievements of outstanding students and recent graduates who have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial qualities, and achievement in entrepreneurship, as well as contributions to the entrepreneurship community.
- The Award consists of two award categories, namely post-secondary (Junior Colleges, ITE and Polytechnics) and university. Applicants were judged on three main criteria – outstanding entrepreneurial qualities, achievement in entrepreneurship and contributions to the entrepreneurship community. Winners of each award category will receive a certificate and cash prize of up to S\$700.

Singapore, 17 November 2017 – It takes a person tremendous courage to embark on the unknown path of entrepreneurship. For Mandy Chan, an SMU undergraduate and a gold award recipient under the university category of the Quest Ventures-EDGE National Youth Entrepreneurship Award, it was a leap of faith to embark on her entrepreneurial journey at the age of 19 years old. Despite having no knowledge about creating products, she decided to take a gap year after Junior College and founded BOW Pte Ltd.

She struggled initially while attempting to seek validation from strangers on the streets and received several rejections. Nonetheless, she persevered and travelled to China on a 14-hour train ride in search of overseas factories. Through sheer resilience and hard work, Mandy finally developed her first prototype, Quiver, a multi-functional and multi-purpose sports bag in the last month of her gap year.

With strong encouragement and support from her co-founders and mentors, Mandy was able to overcome various obstacles

and bounce back stronger. Today, Quiver has successfully raised more than \$60,000, above their initial target of \$15,000, through crowdfunding on Kickstarter and shipped their product.

She also has come up with a pink version of the bag to support breast cancer patients, and contribute to the community.

Entrepreneurial students like Mandy are celebrated and recognised today at the inaugural Quest Ventures-EDGE National Youth Entrepreneurship Award, together with other student entrepreneurs nominated by their institutions.

The Award is a ground-up initiative by three parties - the Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), its youth wing, EDGE (Empower, Develop and Groom Entrepreneurs), and Quest Ventures, to celebrate and recognise the achievements of outstanding students and recent graduates who have demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial qualities, and achievement in entrepreneurship, as well as contributed to the entrepreneurship community. It is supported by the National Youth Council and Young ChangeMakers.

Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and National Development was the Guest-of-Honour to present the award to the recipients from both the post-secondary and university categories.

The awardees for the post-secondary category are Seng Ian Hao (Gold Award) from SJI International, Muhammad Adam Ihsan Boon Jia Sheng (Silver Award) from Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Clinton Li Chak Yu (Bronze Award) from Singapore Polytechnic, Ho Guo Zhen Gordon (Merit Award) from Singapore Polytechnic and Lim Wei Liang (Merit Award) from Ngee Ann Polytechnic. The awardees for the university category are Mandy Chan Xin Yi (Gold Award) from SMU, Chia Lih Wei (Silver Award) from NUS, Charlotte Chan (Bronze Award) from SIM, Daryl Teo (Merit Award) from SUSS.

The awardees of each category received a certificate and cash prize of up to S\$700.

Mr Teo Jian Rong, President of EDGE commented, “This is the first year that EDGE is organising the Quest Ventures-EDGE National Youth Entrepreneurship Awards and we are committed to running this annually. We hope that by recognising the achievements of the awardees today, other

youths can be inspired to contribute to the community, start on their entrepreneurial ventures to solve real problems and develop a giving mindset.”

Mr James Tan, Managing Partner of Quest Ventures

commented, “Increasingly, we see more youths embarking on entrepreneurial endeavours, and Quest Ventures is happy to recognise the entrepreneurial spirit of our student entrepreneurs and help kickstart their journey through the awards.”

Mr Edmas Neo, Executive Director of ACE commented, “The contributions of Mandy and other winners to community service are good core entrepreneurial values that we wish to drive, that in the pursuit of our own success, we should also help others along the way.”

Mr Yuvan s/o Mohan, Lead Curator of the Young ChangeMakers Programme, National Youth Council

commented, “The National Youth Council and Young ChangeMakers is happy to support this ground-up initiative to celebrate student entrepreneurship. We hope to see more diverse and passionate individuals coming together to collaborate and create meaningful impact to the community.”

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About Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE)

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) was launched in 2003 by the Ministry of Trade & Industry as a national effort to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in Singapore. It was re-structured in 2014 as a private-led initiative supported by the government to continue its national mandate to drive entrepreneurship initiatives in Singapore. The Senior Minister of State for Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade & Industry, Dr Koh Poh Koon is Patron.

Working closely with SPRING Singapore, ACE is guided by a board of directors that comprises of experienced entrepreneurs and professionals who are immersed in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

ACE takes on three main thrusts to focus on strengthening the entrepreneurial scene by, (i) working with the community to engage and support promising entrepreneurs through resources, networks and mentorship, (ii) being the voice to speak for entrepreneurs and lobby for relevant policy changes



and (iii) reaching out to schools and youths to support their entrepreneurial efforts.

For more information on ACE, please visit www.ace.org.sg.

About EDGE

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE) has set up a Youth Chapter known as EDGE (Empower, Develop and Groom Entrepreneurs) which comprises of student representatives from various IHLs who are keenly involved in the entrepreneurial scene.

Formed in March 2016 and launched by Dr Koh Poh Koon, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Trade & Industry, in September 2016, EDGE aims to rally the schools together to promote youth entrepreneurship and empower aspiring young entrepreneurs on a national level through knowledge-sharing events.

Mission

To be the go-to community for youth entrepreneurs in Singapore, by creating an effective ecosystem this empowers and nurtures youths to become entrepreneurs.

Vision

To promote awareness of and henceforth inspire youth entrepreneurship on a national level, which is achieved by sharing knowledge and experiences through events, activities, workshops, and tapping on current resources available

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