

Largest number of graduates, scholarships and award recipients to be recognised for upskilling and enhancing capability of social service sector workforce

26 senior leaders in non-profit sector completed inaugural run of ACE Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits – a pinnacle leadership development programme

Singapore, 22 October 2016 – Over 300 individuals celebrated the completion of their programmes and received their scholarships or awards at the Social Service Institute (SSI) Graduation & Awards Ceremony 2016 today. This is the largest number of individuals graduating or receiving scholarships and awards from SSI for the past 13 years. SSI is the human capital development arm of the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) which looks into manpower issues and solutions for the social service sector.

Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung was the Guest-of-Honour for this annual ceremony, which aims to recognise social service professionals – new entrants, mid-career switchers and existing sector practitioners – for their hard work and exemplary performances, and encouraging them to embark on learning as a lifelong pursuit.

ACE Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits – Grooming Effective Leaders for the Non-Profit Sector

The event also saw 26 non-profit sector leaders from 25 organisations graduating from the inaugural cohort of ACE Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits. The programme is a partnership between SSI and Tote Board and was launched in May 2016. It is the pinnacle programme that sets out to enrich senior leaders of the non-profit sector with knowledge and to sharpen their skills in areas such as strategic planning, financial management, talent management, cross-sector collaboration and succession planning to lead their organisations more effectively.

Mr Paul Long, Executive Director for the Family Life Society, has benefited from the amount of valuable knowledge shared by the network of leaders who attended the ACE

Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits. He said, "I would definitely recommend the programme to all leaders in social service organisations. It is highly relevant and there is so much practical knowledge to gain from the interaction."

Please find more information about the programme in Annex A.

SSI's Flagship Programmes - Pathway to Fulfilling Aspirations to be a Social Worker

Close to 140 graduands will be receiving their Diploma in Social Service (DSS) or Higher Diploma in Social Service (HDSS) at the ceremony. Both DSS and HDSS programmes are SSI's flagship programmes. The DSS and HDSS programmes are part of a training and progression pathway for individuals of different educational backgrounds and work experience to become social workers. Graduates of the HDSS can apply for the Bachelor of Social Work offered by UniSIM.

A total of 87 and 49 individuals completed the DSS and HDSS programmes respectively this year, the highest for both programmes since their inception. DSS started in 2008 while HDSS was incepted in 2010.

"The HDSS modules helped in my deeper understanding of the social service sector. I forged friendships with like-minded people who are also passionate about the sector and learning from their experiences of working with beneficiaries. Balancing commitments between work, studies, family and friends has not been easy but the enriching and enjoyable learning experience was worth the challenge. The HDSS curriculum has prepared me well for the next step in my pursuit to be a social worker," said Ms Nasuha Binte Ramin, 23, HDSS graduand and Book Prize winner this year. Ms Nasuha quit her full time job as an Executive in 2016 to enrol in UniSIM's Bachelor of Social Work. She is one of the students in this bachelor's inaugural full time batch.

Scholarships and Awards – Attracting and Retaining Talent in the Social Service Sector

100 recipients of various scholarships, study and training awards were also commended for their potential to make significant contributions to the social service sector. Among them is 19-year-old Ms Michelle Vong Sze Ping, one of the recipients of the Social Service Scholarship this year. Ms Vong is enrolled in Bachelor of Social Work in National University of Singapore.

"A belief that I hold true is that 'I cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good I can do'. To me, what better way to do good than be a social worker. With the scholarship, I am able to take on cross-faculty modules and experience groundwork from field placements. All these open up opportunities for me to learn diverse skills and knowledge and to meet people from different sections of the society. This will train me to be open-minded which is very important when I join the social service sector," said Ms Vong.

The Social Service Scholarship aims to groom talent for the sector and is awarded to outstanding individuals – both undergraduates and postgraduates - for studies in social work, postgraduate psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy.

Please refer to Annex B for list of scholarships and awards given at the ceremony.

Launch of Book on 15 Social Service Professionals

Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung also launched the second volume of 'Nurturing Careers, Inspiring Lives' - a book on 15 social service professionals - at the ceremony. The book, with foreword by Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development, is a collection of personal stories of continuous learning and devotion to serve others from these 15 individuals, who were participants or graduates of various programmes offered at SSI.

Workforce Singapore, SkillsFuture Singapore and Tote Board are the co-sponsors of this year's SSI Graduation & Awards Ceremony.

Mr Fermin Diez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Group Director for Human Capital Development, NCSS said, "Sector professionals form the core of the social service sector and a professionally-trained workforce is a key component of an impactful sector. I encourage all graduands, scholarships and award recipients today to continue in their learning journey. Learning should be a lifelong pursuit and not end when one graduates. The skills and knowledge they have gained will better equip them to make a difference in the lives of the people they serve."

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About National Council of Social Service

NCSS is the umbrella body for over 450 social service organisations in Singapore. Its mission is to provide leadership and direction in enhancing the capabilities and capacity of our members, advocating for social service needs and strengthening strategic partnerships, for an effective social service ecosystem. Community Chest is the fund-raising and engagement arm of NCSS and Social Service Institute (SSI) is the human capital development arm of NCSS. For more information, please visit: www.ncss.gov.sg

Issued by: Corporate Communications, National Council of Social Service
Saturday, 22 October 2016

ANNEX A ACE CAPSTONE LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR NON-PROFITS

The ACE Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits is the pinnacle leadership development programme that sets out to groom strategic leaders in the non-profit sector. This unique programme for current and potential Executive Directors adopts a practical and highly experiential form of learning, enabling them to test out different approaches and ideas while receiving coaching and feedback.

Jointly developed by SSI and Tote Board, the programme combines the strengths of three leadership programme providers, namely, Aalto University (Finland), Singapore Management University Lien Centre for Social Innovation and the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership. On the foundations of this strategic alliance and collaboration, participants can expect a high level of facilitation in the Learning Lab modules, executive coaching sessions and evaluations, and the opportunity to work on a practical issue facing the non-profit sector.

Through this programme, participants will be better equipped to lead their non-profit organisations and consequently raise the overall capabilities of the non-profit sector to improve the lives of beneficiaries.

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

ACE Capstone Leadership Programme for Non-Profits is for current and potential executive directors, and officers of equivalent responsibilities, in non-profit organisations and social enterprises.

Representatives of registered charities AND applicants from social enterprises that are members of raiSE are eligible to attend the programme and entitled to Tote Board's subsidy.

More information about the programme at <http://www.ssi.sg/ACEcapstone>

ANNEX B LIST OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Scholarship / Award	Description
Lien Scholarship for Social Service Leaders	The Lien Scholarship is a prestigious postgraduate scholarship open to outstanding applicants with a keen interest in the social service sector. The scholarship supports postgraduate studies in the area of community mental health, community development, disability, gerontology, management and administration and social policy and administration.
Prime Minister Social Service Award	The Prime Minister Social Service Award was introduced in 2012 to encourage more Singaporeans to choose careers in social service. Scholars will be evaluated based on their outstanding academic achievements, exemplary passion, drive to tackle social problems and improve the lives of the disadvantaged.
Singapore-Industry Scholarship	The Singapore-Industry Scholarship (SgIS) was launched by Ministry of Education, Singapore Economic Development Board and partnering government agencies (including NCSS), to develop a strong core of local talent to anchor strategic sectors in Singapore. It supports local undergraduate studies in the areas of business and accountancy (accountancy/business/business administration/business management), communication studies (communication studies/communications and new media) and psychology.
Social Service Award	The Social Service Award aims to groom talent for the sector and is awarded to individuals committed to work with people in the community for studies in social work, psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech therapy and early childhood.
Social Service Scholarship	The Social Service Scholarship aims to groom talent for the sector and is awarded to outstanding individuals with a passion for helping people and the leadership qualities to drive social change for studies in social work, post-graduate psychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy.
Leadership Development Programme	The programme develops professionals with leadership potential, to take on top management or specialist leadership positions in their agency.

Professional Development and Management Programme	The programme develops professionals with leadership and management potential who are starting to take on management roles.
Sabbatical Leave Scheme	The scheme rewards experienced social service professionals with paid leave to recharge and refresh themselves