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WHAT'S HOT

The TEC Hall of Fame

Some say champions are made by training, others say they are born with the gift. But the truth is that all champions have something in common — something deep inside them which we call the "dream" or "vision".



Lynda conducting a workshop for a group of innovation activists from the Singapore Armed Forces.

To champions, there is no such thing as failure, only feedback and results. And champions know that the best way to forecast the future is to create it. True champions have the skills and the will, but their will is stronger than their skills.

The TEC Champion Award

The Enterprise Challenge (TEC) Unit launched the TEC Champion Award on 31 October 2003 to honour exemplary public officers who have championed TEC's values and consistently demonstrated the qualities of Tenacity, Enterprise and Commitment in their innovation journeys.

In this issue of Challenge, TEC is delighted to introduce one of the TEC Champions — Dr Lynda Wee.

Dr Lynda Wee — a learning teacher

Full of charm, charisma and character, Lynda is probably the envy of every 21st century woman who has to balance her family and career. But what distinguishes Lynda is her ability to juggle the responsibilities of family and career with a dynamic sense of innovation in her life.

Lynda is one of the key driving forces behind the TEC sponsored innovative project called "Education Innovation for the Knowledge-Based Economy". Her project team won The Enterprise Challenge Shield 2003. Of all the projects sponsored by TEC, hers was selected for contributing the most value to the Public Service in 2003.



When she embarked on the project, Lynda was a Temasek Polytechnic (TP) lecturer. Through her observations and interaction with students, she noticed that "students experienced difficulty in recalling what they had learnt in their earlier years. For those who could recall, they lacked the ability to apply their knowledge for problem solving. They were convergent learners who sought single correct answers. They were not

comfortable with ambiguity.”

To address some of the gaps, Lynda began to experiment with different teaching and learning approaches. But her exploration was limited to the subjects she taught.

The turning point came when she was appointed Course Manager of the Diploma in Marketing programme at the polytechnic. She seized the opportunity to transform the curriculum using the authentic Knowledge-Based Learning approach. TEC funded the trial test.

Overcoming hurdles and obstacles

Initially, Lynda faced difficulties trying to introduce changes to the existing education system that was held in high regard. It was difficult to prove the benefit of a new idea.

To convince stakeholders like management staff, faculty members, employers, students, parents and accrediting bodies, a TEC trial test was conceptualised and conducted at TP.

The Diploma in Marketing course at TP served as the test bed for piloting the Knowledge-Based Learning approach. The marketing curriculum was transformed. The students participated in activities that simulated situations in the working world. This new approach trained them to take responsibility for their learning and developed them into holistic thinkers and problem solvers.

Lynda and her team were grateful for the advice given by the TEC Panel and the valuable feedback from the TEC Unit throughout the trial, which was successfully completed.

An innovative public sector

Lynda believes that all public officers are capable of innovation because the work culture in the public sector is pro-innovation. She said WITS and SSS are avenues for public officers who are constantly seeking new and better ways of doing things.

Change permeates everything including education. Lynda is aware that advancements in technology and the changing business landscape demands different competencies in workers, and the ever-changing student profile offers opportunities for her to rethink and innovate.

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