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MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. Embassy launches second year of Alumni Mentoring

Following a successful first year, the United States Embassy in Singapore will run its Alumni Mentoring Program for a second time with greater participation by individuals and companies keen on “paying it forward”.

Singaporean volunteers, who are either alumni of the U.S. Embassy’s Fulbright scholarship or participants in the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), serve as mentors to select ITE students, the mentees. The mentees are from ITE’s ACE program, which nurtures and creates opportunities for top students at the school.

Espousing the shared values of the U.S. and Singapore, the program both coincides with National Mentoring Month in the United States, and echoes the call by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong for those who are successful to “give back to society”.

This mentorship program in Singapore will run over 6 months from January to June and includes 29 mentors and 32 mentees. They will meet once a month on Saturday morning for 3 hours. These sessions are facilitated by psychologist Wendy Chua-Sullivan, Founder of Wand Inspiration. There will also be learning trips to U.S. companies in Singapore such as Nike and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

Mentor Jackie Yoong, Curator of the Peranakan Museum and alumnus of the IVLP in 2012, shared the reasons she chose to devote her time to this mentoring effort.

“Growing up, I have had dreams and fears, and benefitted immensely from a few mentors’ guidance and encouragement about career development and life in general. As a mentor in this program, I hope to provide similar support for the students’ aspirations.”

Having gone through the inaugural program in 2013, 18-year-old mentee Lye Zheng Bin, a *Nitec* in Aerospace Avionics graduate from ITE College Central, said, "This program has helped me acquire new skills and knowledge that are beneficial for my personal growth and future development. Thank you, mentors, for selflessly contributing your time and energy to share your experiences with us, guiding us with your advice and inspiring us with your example."

Note to Editors:

Press are invited to cover the official launch at ITE College Central this Saturday, January 18, at 9 am.