



SUPPORT AT EVERY TURN

THE LARGEST CROP OF ECDA SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS WAS GIVEN OUT IN 2017 TO SUPPORT EARLY CHILDHOOD (EC) PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS.

Sarasvathy d/o Ravee is a familiar face at EC-related events. At the 2017 MOE Education and Career Guide Fair, she was on hand to share her experiences with secondary school students and encourage them to join the EC sector. She was also present at the launch of Start Small Dream Big 2016, where she served as a guide for young children for various station activities.

The 20-year-old voluntarily took on these responsibilities despite her busy schedule while studying for the Higher National Institute of Technical Education Certificate (NITEC) in Early Childhood Education programme at ITE College Central. "It's my way of paying it forward. I had a fantastic kindergarten experience. My teachers created a home-like environment for me and built my confidence," Ms Sarasvathy recalls. "I hope to recreate this nurturing environment for young children."

Her commitment to the EC sector was recognised at the ECDA Scholarships and Awards Presentation Ceremony 2017, where Ms Sarasvathy was one of five recipients of the inaugural ECDA Training Award (TA) Commendation Award. Announced in 2016, the ECDA TA Commendation

Award celebrates the achievements and successes of outstanding ECDA TA recipients taking the full-time Higher NITEC, Diploma or Degree course in EC Education in their graduating year. Besides academic excellence, recipients also have to demonstrate exemplary conduct and leadership qualities.

Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Desmond Lee presented the awards at the Ceremony held at the HDB Hub Auditorium on 30 October 2017. "I am glad that the recipients of the ECDA TA

The award reminds me of what I can achieve with hard work and a strong purpose.

Ms Sarasvathy d/o Ravee (below)



A RECORD

499

STUDENTS

RECEIVED SUPPORT FOR THEIR STUDIES THROUGH THE

ECDA SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS IN 2017.

Commendation Award are sharing their knowledge and experiences with aspiring EC educators, and inspiring them to make a difference in the lives of their children," said Mr Lee. Besides the ECDA TA Commendation Award, he also gave out ECDA Scholarships, Teaching Awards, Training Awards and Sponsorships to EC educators.

A record 499 students received support for their studies through such schemes in 2017. This is a 20 per cent increase from 2016. Noting this, Mr Lee said, "With the planned expansion of pre-schools and enhancement of EC educators' career pathways, the EC sector is increasingly viewed as a good career choice."

Like many recipients, Ms Sarasvathy is deeply encouraged by the recognition of her hard work and passion. She is currently pursuing her Diploma in EC Education at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, and plans to further her studies so that she can eventually be an EC lecturer. On how the ECDA TA Commendation Award will help her achieve her dreams, she says, "The award reminds me of what I can achieve with hard work and a strong purpose." ♥