

Media Release



25 August 2003

News Editor

Mentors Who Go The Extra Mile To Make A Difference in Lives Meet them at launch of new Student Mentorship Programme Logo

Ever tried to get a truanting student to get back to school? Or bringing hope and friendship to an embittered teenager? Come 23 August, meet a group of undergraduates who have taken up the challenge of mentoring such youths and hear their journey at the signing of Memorandum of Understanding, which marks the launch of a full-fledged programme, the Student Mentorship Programme (SMP). The event will also see the launch of the new SMP logo.

2 “Leonard was in secondary two when I met him. Though I knew about him constantly seeking attention in class and his mother being tired of his misbehaviour, I told him I was there to be his friend. It took sometime for me to gain his trust, but I took time to talk to him about his behaviour and slowly, he began to see that it wasn’t worth it being mischievous in class. Now we have regular study sessions and his grades have remarkably improved!” enthused Edmund Low.

3 A joint project of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS), the National University of Singapore (NUS), South West Community Development Council (SWCDC) and Students Care Service (SCS), the Student Mentorship Programme has touched many lives since its introduction in 1998 as a response to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds in Singapore. “I feel happy because there is somebody I can talk to, ” enthused Ridzuan of Bukit View Secondary School.

4 78% of mentees treat their mentors like a close friend and 74% wish to continue meeting their mentors even when the programme ended. “Pupils felt excited to meet their mentors because

they saw their mentors as good friends they could confide in and seek advice from,” said Ms Sujeetha Brampy, HOD Pupil Management of Kent Ridge Sec School.

5 The signing of Memorandum of Understanding marks the launch of a full-fledge programme, the Student Mentorship Programme (SMP), which had its beginning as a joint project of the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS), the National University of Singapore (NUS), *South-West Community Development Council (SWCDC) and Students Care Service (SCS). Since 1998, the programme has served 21 secondary schools. Guest-of-Honour for the ceremony is Mrs Yee-Foo Yee Shoon, Mayor of South West Community Development Council District, MP for Jurong GRC.

6 We would like to invite your reporters and photographers/camera crew to cover this historic event. Enclosed are the admin programme and location map for your perusal. We look forward to meeting them.

Media liaison Officers

Ivan Lee
Senior Community Development Officer
South West CDC
DID: 6316 7220
HP: 9731 9220
E-mail: Ivan_lee@pa.gov.sg

Ng Pei Ling (Ms)
Communications Manager
NUSS
DID: 65863718
E-mail: peiling@nuss.org.sg

PROGRAMME

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2.30 pm | Arrival of Guests |
| 3 pm | Arrival of Guest-of-Honour |
| 3.10 pm | Welcome Address of NUSS President, Mr Lai Kim Seng |
| 3.15 pm | Speech by Guest-of-Honour |
| 3.25 pm | Sharing Sessions / Presentations by Schools, Mentors, Mentees |
| 3.50 pm | Presentation of Certificates by Guest-of-Honour |
| 4 pm | Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding |
| 4.10 pm | Buffet Reception |
| 4.30 pm | End of Programme |

Location Map

