

College of Business First Year Teaching Award

Mr. Leon Lai (Graduate Teaching Assistant)

It is my honor to receive the CB First Year Teaching Award for 2018/19, in recognition of my work as a tutor. My decision to pursue a career in teaching was due to my intrinsic desire to make a positive impact on the lives of students. Teaching is a highly rewarding profession in which one is able to directly effect change in the lives of others, and I cannot think of a better way to contribute to the betterment of society.

To build meaningful relationships with my students and the determination to “go one step further” are two of my guiding principles as a teacher. Through the development of relationships that are honest, open and respectful, students know that I understand them and accept them as they are. They are also willing to open their minds and share their thoughts with me. This allows me to identify their learning objectives and to better adjust my teaching methodology and materials to match their learning style. Moreover, my strongest belief about teaching is that one never stops being a teacher. Teaching is not a 9 to 5 job with a clock to punch to start or end the day. The practice of teaching is not confined to the arbitrary walls of a classroom. Rather, it extends into



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the university community. I am sure that what I do outside the classroom is as important as what I do inside the classroom. Therefore, I take a step further to approach my students and offer to help them outside of class. This supports my relationship-building with students. As a result, I have taken great joy in advising, mentoring and tutoring students in the office, in the hallway and even in the canteen last year. By offering more support to students, they are encouraged to develop their innate abilities to the fullest extent, to provide both focus and clarity to many concepts that they have already acquired in the classroom.

I appreciate receiving positive comments from students and colleagues and feel rewarded for my efforts. Even more, I appreciate those who give me suggestions for improvements that enable me to be taken out from my blind spots. I hope students will look back on their time with me and remember me as a teacher who genuinely cared for their well-being.

Almost every teacher will keep in mind the principle of “Give a person a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a person how to fish and he will eat for the rest of his life.” However, it is really hard to practice in everyday teaching. It is easy to explain a question in tutorial, but it is not easy for students to solve all the similar questions in the future and even analogize to more complicated situations. So, I will keep on improving toward the target I have set that my students can accomplish every task with ease in my area of teaching. I also hope that I will have the chance to further develop myself in the area of teaching managerial accounting.



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