

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **PARKWAY COLLEGE GROWS TALENT FOR HEALTHCARE SECTOR**

- Pioneer graduating cohort for Diploma in Optometry, the first and only pathway in Singapore for opticians to upgrade to optometrist
- First graduating cohort of nursing students from Hong Kong, among them a valedictorian, to work in Singapore
- Diagnostics Radiology and Imaging Course enrolment numbers growing with this year's intake reaching full capacity; first degree of its kind to be recognised by the Allied Health Professions Council in Singapore

**Singapore, 17 November 2016** – This Friday 18 November 2016, Parkway College of Nursing and Allied Health (“Parkway College”) will hold its 6<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony for its graduating students at Concorde Hotel. This year's graduating cohort marks a series of firsts in College history. Parkway College will send off its pioneer class of graduands from the Diploma in Optometry, the first and only pathway in Singapore that offers existing opticians a chance to upgrade to optometrists. It will also see its first cohort of nursing graduands from Hong Kong, among them a valedictorian, to work in Singapore. In addition, with effect from 2016, the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging programme is the first degree of its kind to be recognised by the Allied Health Professions Council in Singapore, such that College graduates of the programme need not take a qualifying exam to practise in Singapore, thus affirming the quality of the degree programme.

Darren Lim, who owns his own optical shop business, is the 40-year-old valedictorian of the Diploma of Optometry programme. Darren, who also holds a degree in Engineering, shares that he has always been keen on learning and improving his skills to better serve his customers. “The Diploma of Optometry by Parkway College was the only upgrading option available to me and it was extremely helpful in strengthening my foundation and fundamentals. I have since formed valuable friendships among my classmates who are also part of the same trade. We still keep in touch today via the group chat we created during our time at Parkway College!”

Among the first group of Hong Kong students to study at Parkway College, 22-year-old To Man Ki emerged valedictorian of the nursing cohort. Since young, Man Ki has been inspired to become a nurse after a hospital stay left a lasting impression on her. Currently working in a restructured hospital, she says, “The clinical attachments during my time at Parkway College really provided me with ample opportunities to be exposed to different hospital environments. I enjoyed learning how to interact with various kinds of patients and gaining first-hand experience communicating with them.”

Fellow Hong Kong peer in the same Diploma of Nursing course shared similar sentiments about the learning experience. 22 year-old Lau Wing Chi says, “I really enjoyed the hospital postings part of the course where I had the chance to visit many hospitals, I found it an

inspiring and eye-opening experience especially interacting with the patients.” 4 out of the 5 students from Hong Kong will stay on in Singapore to pursue their career in local hospitals.

22-year-old Shermaine Wong, valedictorian of the Bachelor of Science (Honours) Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging programme, participated in a two-week overseas attachment experience in the United Kingdom and has this to say of her experience, “It was an enriching and fun opportunity getting to explore healthcare in a different country and culture. It opened my eyes to the difference in pace and workflow procedures in place in a different country, and I was able to learn valuable take-aways that are not possible from within a classroom or local setting.” The popularity of this radiography degree programme has been growing and reached full capacity of 40 seats for the 2016 intake.

Among the graduating cohort of 2016, 10 students will be receiving their Diploma in Optometry, 13 will be getting their Diploma in Nursing, 11 will graduate with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging, 16 will be receiving their Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management and 17 will be getting their Masters of Health in Administration.

Dr Lee Hong Huei, Chief Executive Officer of Parkway College, says, “The training and development of healthcare talent has been the core mandate of Parkway College since its inception. Our passion is in helping people succeed. Over the years, we have been unwavering in our focus on providing high quality education and training opportunities for those who want to make an impact in healthcare. To encourage life-long learning and career employability, Parkway College has always and will continue to offer new pathways and improvements in the curriculum that will aid in skill upgrading and career advancement.”

Please refer to Annex for a short profile of additional students from the 2016 cohort.

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## **ABOUT PARKWAY COLLEGE OF NURSING AND ALLIED HEALTH**

Established in 2008, Parkway College of Nursing and Allied Health is the education arm of Parkway Pantai Limited. It aspires to be the premier global private educational institution in the niche fields of nursing, allied health and healthcare management. It provides opportunities for lifelong learning, and equips its students with the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

Parkway College is registered with the Committee for Private Education (CPE), Singapore and is EduTrust-certified. The teaching faculty is well-qualified and has vast experience in their fields of expertise. As an Approved Training Organisation by SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG), Parkway College provides courses that are of a robust quality within the Continuous Education and Training framework.

Healthcare and professional education are the forte of Parkway College. Besides being equipped with competencies, students will embrace lifelong learning and develop ownership to chart their personal growth. The combination of the right skills, right attitude and right mindset will augment their success in the workplace and enhance their career aspirations and employability in the marketplace.

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**Additional Student Profiles**

**1) Tai Chee Weng ( Diploma in Nursing)**

A 49 year-old ex-customer service officer who had always dreamt of being a nurse since young. His mother was also a nurse which played a part in influencing his interest in nursing at a young age. He suffered some set-backs during his learning journey in the form of a broken hand. But that did not stop him from eventually completing his course, as the oldest student among his peers.

**2) Salamah Binti Sudarman (Diploma in Nursing)**

A 25 year-old who also holds a diploma in Biomedical Informatics & Engineering prior to joining the Diploma in Nursing course. Was persistent in joining the course despite financial challenges, and was juggling studies in the day while working shifts at night to finance her course fees.

**3) Keng Chiat Han (Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management)**

Was previously from the Aerospace industry before deciding on a mid-career switch in healthcare following his taking up of the Graduate Diploma in Healthcare Management course.

~The End~