

FOREWORD

The higher education in Taiwan is bearing the brunt of declining birth rate. According to statistics by the Ministry of the Interior, 18-year-old population is estimated to dwindle from 320,000 this year to 160,000 in 2028. Based on the current student-teacher ratio (public, 19:1 v.s. private, 24:1) and university acceptance rate of 95.73% this year (exclusive of compulsory retirees), as many as about 500 university teachers will be threatened by unemployment each year in the future. Thus, it is an issue that demands our attention and concern. In Korea, for example, many national universities have ranked behind private ones in the recent three decades. In 2000, National Chiayi University became a comprehensive university with a profound history and solid foundations in technical, vocational and teacher education. After years' commitment to enhancing teaching and research capacity, NCYU has emerged as a comprehensive university that boasts teaching excellence and emphasis on both theoretical research and industrial practice. There are around 13,500 students and 510 full-time teachers in the six colleges of Teachers, Agriculture, Life Sciences, Science and Engineering, Management, and Humanities and Arts.

The past year has been the eighth since NCYU has obtained a subsidy of NT\$30 million from the Ministry of Education (MOE) for the University Teaching Excellence Project. The subsidy helped boost the effectiveness of teaching, as well as nurture students with diverse capabilities and competitiveness. In the academic year 2014, Teacher Education Center won a MOE subsidy of NT\$2 million for the Teacher Education Enhancement Program, the highest honor among all the award-winning schools. NCYU teachers have received subsidies totaling over NT\$103 million on research projects of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and more than NT\$322.21 million in terms of overall academic-industrial cooperation programs. NCYU Enterprise Incubation Center ranked third among over 130 universities and colleges nationwide in annual performance, winning a subsidy of NT\$3 million from the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA). With a three-year subsidy of NT\$1.4 million for the Technology Development Program for Academia from MOEA, a list of products has been developed on the basis of academic-industrial cooperation, including NCYU "Golden Dew" high isoflavone and non-genetically modified soybean, Toothsome "Golden Dew" Soybean Milk, white soy sauce and yogurt ice cream made with high-isoflavone soybean, among others. To close the education-employment gap and facilitate adaptive streaming of

students, NCYU is dedicated to modular curriculum reform and academic-industrial cooperation. In April this year, it has signed academic-industrial collaboration memoranda with 476 companies in the five industrial parks such as Minsyong, Touqiao, Jiatai, Puzih and Yi-jhu, and 51 firms in fields ranging from biotechnology, precision agriculture, machinery and electronics, through education to design, with a view to creating more internship opportunities for students. So far, NCYU Orchid Research Team has achieved at least 2,500 hybridization combinations, of which 224 have been registered as newfangled artificial hybrids by the Royal Horticultural Society. The team demonstrates remarkable capabilities of research and breeding by placing first in Outstanding Breeding Award 2013 in the category of Phalaenopsis.

To promote internationalization among the students, NCYU has stepped up its efforts in carrying out international cooperation and exchange programs with universities overseas over the years. It has signed sister school agreements with 57 universities from Europe, the U.S., mainland China, Japan and Southeast Asia. There are about 400 overseas Chinese and foreign students, 40 exchange students from mainland China. It is also planning to establish the International College in the hope of attracting distinguished international students to pursue studies at NCYU with bounteous international student scholarships. On the other hand, it encourages distinguished students to join short-term study and internship programs in foreign universities, and integrated master's degree students to present papers abroad. By promoting international engagement, the university hopes to enhance students' global vision, international communication competence, and thus competitiveness in the job market.

In addition to providing professional training in humanities and art, and creating a campus atmosphere conducive to artistic growth, NCYU spares no effort in promoting humanities and art in the communities. Since its launch in last February, "NCYU Porcelain Painting Workshop" has served as a platform for fostering porcelain painting art. By offering a number of practice-oriented courses, it aims to nurture professionals and strengthen domestic porcelain painting art education, so as to highlight its value as part of the cultural and creative industries. The story of the Kano, now NCYU, baseball team's epic achievement at the Koshien games had been adapted into film *KANO* by renowned director Wei Desheng. Not only has it sparked a trend for baseball in Taiwan, but it has aroused a historical memory and sense of honor shared by all NCYU people, who look upon the future with sanguine hope and confidence.

To maintain sustainable development, NCYU never wavers in its commitment to building consensus and momentum, solidifying the foundation and facilitating innovation. With “never give up” as its motto, NCYU is devoted to academic excellence, campus internationalization and diversification. It will continue its efforts to maneuver the wealth of resources enjoyed by the Yunlin-Chiayi-Tainan region to integrate academic research and industrial practice with local characteristics, thus reducing the education-job mismatch. And to promote internationalization, the university dedicates itself to instilling students with competitiveness and the ability to act with an international perspective, with the hope that they could all fulfill the goal of “dreaming big and making it happen.”



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