

FOREWORD

While facing the tough threats of the declining birthrate and the learning gap between education and employment, National Chiayi University spares no effort to turn crisis into opportunities. A consensus was reached during a University Affairs meeting in October last year that the university would orient its efforts towards “a comprehensive university featuring teaching excellence, and integration of niche studies and industrial practice.” We are committed to implementing a modular curriculum, helping students achieve adaptive development based on their own expertise and interests, as well as enhancing their learning motivation during semesters. Meanwhile, we offer a platform to encourage senior students to participate in semester-long internship opportunities that prepare them for future employment. We also encourage students interested in basic academic technology research to apply for scholarships for college student thematic research projects from the Ministry of Science and Technology. Those earning scholarships may join our integrated master's program, and obtain their master's degrees within as little as five years. It is a **time efficient** and financially supportive means to pursue further studies. In addition to students studying a minor or joining professional programs, we also offer overseas exchange student programs. We believe that our diverse learning platform will allow NCYU to develop into a comprehensive university with remarkable performance achievements. According to the announced numbers of undergraduate thematic research projects that were passed by the Ministry of Science and Technology, we have as many as 75 this years, as opposed to 42 last year and 29 the year before last. This is the culmination of boundless possibilities and the potential of NCYU students. There are nearly 13,000 students and 500 full-time teachers in the university’s six colleges—the Teachers, Humanities and Arts, Management, Agriculture, Science and Engineering, and Life Sciences colleges.

A look back **at** the last year will reveal a number of the university's achievements. In terms of administration, NYCU was the winner of the excellence award for “Government Service Quality Award 2014” and “Ministry of Education Moral Education-based School 2015” by the Ministry of Education (MOE). There were also noted accomplishments by teacher-student teams and individuals. Students from the Department of BioBusiness Management won a gold medal at the Collegiate Patent Analysis and Layout Contest 2014. Students of the Department of Visual Arts attained a

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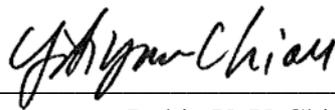
14th Cathay New Age Potential Art Award in the undergraduate category. The Department of Physical Education, Health and Recreation students were selected to serve as coaches for the national training team in the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. The Lantan Chinese Orchestra and Tutorial Club were honored with exceptional awards in the academic and art, and service-oriented categories respectively at “National Evaluation and Demonstration of College Student Clubs.” The teacher-student team from the Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering placed first at “2015 National Industrial Energy Efficiency Creative Contest.” The “I’m Legend” motorcade, consisting of teachers and students from the NCYU Department of Mechanical and Energy Engineering, Southern Taiwan University and National Min-Shyong Senior School of Agricultural & Industry, won the first prize at “the 7th National Student Cup Hydrogen Car Competition.” A teacher from the Department of Physical Education, Health and Recreation won the champion honors at a world badminton tournament. A “National Excellent Teacher” title was given to a teacher from the Department of Agronomy. All these reflect the unwavering competitiveness and abundant accomplishments of the faculty, staff members and students at NCYU.

Pursuit of prominence is something we have always dedicated ourselves to. In 2015, the Ministry of Science and Technology has granted us NT\$146,889,963 for our research projects. The Council of Agriculture granted us NT\$105,672,654. The MOE has also given us a grant of NT\$50,005,458 for our research projects. The budgets collaborating with sectors of government and academia amounted to NT\$97,427,067. Professor Chyung Ay, Vice President for Academic Affairs, leads an “agricultural diesel engine diesel-electric hybrid system development” team that boasts members across institutions and industries. The team received a subsidy of more than NT\$20 million from the Council of Agriculture. This August, we obtained a subsidy of NT\$3 million from the MOE for the “Support for Underprivileged Students” project to improve the entire learning experience of underprivileged students. As to the “Third-Term Project of Regional Integration and Sharing of Educational Resources – Second-Phase Teaching Empowerment Plan (from 2015 to 2016),” we attained a subsidy of NT\$20 million. We also signed a “Remote Area Hope Project” academic-industrial cooperation agreement with the Wynne Social Welfare Charity Foundation. The decade-long agreement valued at NT\$12 million aims to help solidify the foundation, nurture the top students, and help those who need it in remote, underprivileged mountainous and coastal regions. In addition to strengthening talent cultivation, enhancing and reviving essential oil

industries based on short, medium and long-range plans, and promoting the resources unique to the mountainous and coastal regions, we hope to create new hope and sustainable prosperity for the aforementioned remote areas through collaboration between academia and industry. In terms of academic research and academic-industrial collaboration, this year has seen a huge improvement in research quality and quantity, as well as breakthroughs in academic-industrial cooperation. Our Innovation Incubation Center boasts numerous achievements. It won a subsidy of NT\$3.5 million from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, which aims to encourage public and private institutions to small and medium enterprises to set up enterprise incubation centers, and has since provided counseling services to more than 100 companies. It will continue to seek more partners to build a more active matching platform for academic-industrial cooperation.

To promote internationalization, NCYU is dedicated to facilitating its efforts in carrying out diverse exchange programs and cooperation with universities overseas. Through the years, we have established sister school agreements with 57 notable universities from around the world. This year, we signed an agreement on academic and student exchange with Onomichi City University, Japan, and renewed a memorandum on agreeing academic cooperation with Thailand Khon Kaen University to continue our academic and visit exchange programs. We have teacher-student teams who have visited sister schools in Thailand, Japan and mainland China to carry out academic exchange. We also have exchange students who pursue studies at our sister schools. Teacher-student academic teams from Thailand's Surat Thani Rajabhat University, the U.S. University of Idaho, and Japan's Tokyo University of Agriculture visited us for short-term visit exchange. We have around 460 students who are overseas Chinese, or come from foreign countries and mainland China, as well as nearly 32 exchange students from mainland China. By way of attracting outstanding overseas students across domains to study at NCYU, we strive to create a more adaptive, international and automatic learning environment. We also promote internationalization of NCYU by facilitating adaptive development for students to display their potential. The funds donated by our alumni and enthusiasts for students to participate in exchange programs abroad allow our students to join exchange programs or international academic conferences at our sister schools during their college years. All these help expand our teachers' and students' view of the world.

We have fleshed out the 15-year three-phase development objectives for the future development of our university that respond to the current trends. The objectives include, in order, “innovative transformation,” “effective governance” and “sustainable development.” We have stepped up efforts to realize the first goal by emulating Kano’s spirit of perseverance and pursuit of excellence, and building consensus and teamwork. We have also taken initiatives to develop effective strategies to deal with the threat of low-birth rate and the problem of education-job mismatch. By seeking excellence step-by-step, enhancing the quality and reputation of our higher education services, we hope to boost education and industrial development in remote areas, and fulfill our social responsibility, thus realizing the pivotal goals of “serving the society with knowledge, spearheading improvement with technology, beautifying life with humanities.” By creating a win-win situation with the industries, we will continue to promote our uniqueness, and head toward an even brighter future.



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