

2021 UGC Teaching Award Citations

Dr Koon Yee Wan, The University of Hong Kong

Dr Koon’s teaching vision is to transform art history students’ curiosity into a deeper commitment to arts. Her “art history in action” strategy underpins her innovative and effective redesign of the art history programme of The University of Hong Kong. She leverages her vast networks to illustrate the role of art in society and to highlight the myriad career opportunities in the arts ecosystem to her students. Dr Koon seeks to turn art history students into researchers and producers rather than mere consumers of knowledge through, for instance, collaborating with Asia Art Archive to nurture students’ primary research skills. She is an exceptional educator who epitomises all that is best about teaching and learning in academia: her disciplinary expertise, passion, energy and genuine care for her students are inspirations to all. Her immense contributions have lifted the profile of arts education within Hong Kong and across the globe. Her teaching excellence has also received recognitions from the Faculty and University teaching awards of The University of Hong Kong.

Professor Rhea Patricia Liem, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

As a successful “woman in Engineering”, Professor Liem is a well-deserved award recipient for her contributions to teaching excellence and innovation, curriculum design, as well as her commitment and dedication to both her students and to her field. Since joining the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology a few years ago, Professor Liem has made a significant contribution to, and impact on, her Department and the wider School. A key strength of Professor Liem is her passionate engagement with learners, whether that is her students, or those she comes into contact with through her other societal contributions. She is also a creative and energetic teacher, whose passionate style of teaching attracts and fascinates her students whilst simultaneously fosters understanding of key concepts.

She brings a genuine and infectious passion for her subject area, combined with real empathy and understanding for her students, which combine into a highly effective and motivating pedagogical approach.

Joint University Mental-Wellness Project Team, City University of Hong Kong

The inter-institutional Joint University Mental-Wellness Project (JUMP) Team is led by Dr Sylvia Kwok from City University of Hong Kong with Professor Daniel Wong (The University of Hong Kong), Dr Siu Ming To (The Chinese University of Hong Kong), Miss Loretta Leung (The Education University of Hong Kong) and Dr Jiayan Pan (Hong Kong Baptist University) as team members. The Team aims to enhance students' wellbeing and foster positive learning experiences. To achieve these objectives, the Team has developed and implemented a positive transformational learning pedagogy, which employs a strength-based and process-focused approach to maximise students' potential by transforming their attitudes, values and beliefs. Positive transformational learning pedagogy combines positive education, which is an approach to education that blends academic learning with character strengths and well-being, with transformational learning, which refers to a process allowing learners to construe, validate, and reformulate the meaning of their experiences. The transformational pedagogical framework delivers positive education content by enabling students to first learn about positive education theories and concepts, and ultimately embed a positive education atmosphere in the university and the community by way of student-led projects. Through a variety of activities, over 1 100 staff and professionals, around 4 000 university students and 1 500 members of the wider community have benefitted from the work of the Team.