

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC, REPUBLIC POLYTECHNIC AND NTUC LEARNINGHUB
ANNOUNCE COLLABORATION TO EXPAND SINGAPORE'S HEALTHCARE
COMPETENCIES THROUGH SGUNITED SKILLS PROGRAMME

Singapore, 15 October 2020 – The Healthcare Academy – a collaboration by NTUC LearningHub (NTUC LHUB), Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU) and NTUC's Employability and Employment Institute (e2i) — today announced partnerships with Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic to leverage the expertise of each institution to enhance the quality of training and expand the nation's healthcare and community care competencies. These competencies will directly address skills gaps and talent needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the evolving health needs of Singaporeans as the healthcare industry continues its long-term shift towards preventive and community care. This will be done through well-rounded, collaborative training programmes offered as part of the Government's SGUnited Skills (SGUS) Programme.

The collaboration is also driven by a desire to upskill healthcare employees and expand their competencies, as more pressure is placed on the sector for care delivery and medical support¹. This initiative also supports the nation's plan to build a pipeline of talent, who may not have prior healthcare industry experience, to join the sector².

Participants will be able to select from three tracks including *Basic Care Assistant* and *Healthcare Assistant* offered by Healthcare Academy and Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Health Sciences and School of Humanities & Social Sciences, and *Community Care Workforce* — which includes care coordinators, health coaches and case managers — by Healthcare Academy and Republic Polytechnic's School of Sports, Health and Leisure. These tracks were specially chosen to address both immediate and longer term needs of the community care sector.

In each of the three tracks, the modules and real-world practicum are curated to form a six-month-long programme. The fundamental skills acquired will enable participants to take on new roles in the healthcare sector, even if they have had no prior experience.

¹ Baker, J.A. and Mohan, M. (2020) Stretched but coping: *How Singapore's healthcare system has cranked up efforts to deal with COVID-19*. Retrieved 24 September 2020, from <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/covid-19-singapore-health-capacity-hospitals-treatment-12698282>

² Ang, P. (2020). *7,500 jobs and 1,600 training opportunities in healthcare sector to be created by end-2021*. Retrieved 23 September 2020, from <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/7500-jobs-and-1600-training-opportunities-in-healthcare-sector-to-create-by-end>



In addition, designed with the goal of improving the employability of participants, the SGUS Programme encompasses career advisory and employment facilitation efforts from NTUC LHUB to assist trainees in their job search in the healthcare sector.

“We are excited to partner Healthcare Academy to meet the nation’s growing demand for healthcare services. Ngee Ann Polytechnic has been grooming compassionate and competent professionals for the sector through our School of Health Sciences since 2005. Together with our School of Humanities and Social Sciences, our programmes will offer additional multi-disciplinary skills in a blended learning environment most suited for adult learners. The launch of the SGUnited Skills Programme targeted at mid-career professionals will allow them to acquire expertise in key areas such as infection control, wellness and counselling, to help build a strong talent pool and a sustainable healthcare system,” says Mr Clarence Ti, Principal of Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Mr Yeo Li Pheow, Principal/ CEO, Republic Polytechnic, says, “We are pleased to collaborate with Healthcare Academy in delivering professional training for our healthcare workforce. Republic Polytechnic is well-positioned to support the increased need for healthcare and community care professionals, with our range of Pre-employment Training (PET) and Continuing Education and Training (CET) programmes that nurture a skilled healthcare workforce at any stage of their career. The SGUnited Skills Programme in Community Care and Health will enable healthcare professionals to upskill and expand their competencies in delivering high quality community care outcomes, while also allowing mid-career entrants to contribute towards Singapore’s evolving healthcare needs.”

“The Healthcare Academy was established to support the continuous learning and career aspirations of healthcare employees, especially through changing times. This collaboration with like-minded partners such as Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic will help bolster existing efforts by Healthcare Academy to groom more healthcare employees and help sustain Singapore’s world-class healthcare system. Through the three distinct healthcare tracks, we hope to generate more healthcare employees to thrive in a growing sector with numerous career opportunities,” says Deputy Chairman of Healthcare Academy and CEO of NTUC LHUB, Kwek Kok Kwong.

“The Healthcare Academy endeavours to fulfil the healthcare sector’s skills development needs for healthcare employees in this era of industry transformation. In the last 3 years, we have offered several customised programmes for our healthcare employees. We are now rolling out programmes to train Singaporeans from other industry sectors to be well equipped with the skills, knowledge and competency to work in various healthcare institutions with the support of Skillsfuture



Singapore (SSG) and e2i as well as in collaboration with Republic Polytechnic and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU) is indeed heartened to see the growth of the Healthcare Academy especially in supporting SGUS effort. We invite more Singaporeans to take up jobs in the healthcare sector for better career opportunity and job security through our employment and employability efforts," says Chairman of Healthcare Academy and President of HSEU, K Thanalechimi.

Interested participants may apply for the programme via <https://bit.ly/sgunitedskills>.

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About Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic started in 1963 and is today one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning with over 14,000 enrolled students in over 30 disciplines. It seeks to develop students with a passion for learning, values for life, and competencies to thrive in a global workplace.

<http://www.np.edu.sg>



About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to leverage the Problem-based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic (RP) has seven schools and one academic centre offering 37 full-time diplomas in Applied Science, Engineering, Management and Communication, Hospitality, Infocomm, Sports, Health & Leisure, and Technology for the Arts.

RP is committed to nurturing professionals with strong problem-solving capabilities through an innovative and entrepreneurial learning environment, based on a holistic and industry-relevant curriculum. RP's Academy For Continuing Education also offers a comprehensive suite of lifelong learning programmes to provide adult learners with skills upgrading opportunities.

For more information, visit <http://www.rp.edu.sg>

About Healthcare Academy

Healthcare Academy is a collaboration among Healthcare Services Employees' Union (HSEU), Employability and Employment Institute (e2i) and NTUC LearningHub (LHUB). Healthcare Academy endeavours to:

- Support continuous learning for healthcare workers, especially those affected by industry restructuring, job re-design and technological disruptions
- Provide employment opportunities for displaced workers from other sectors to work in the healthcare sector through robust job matching process
- Equip healthcare workers with relevant adaptive skills, technology skills and technical skills, to be future ready for business transformation



Healthcare Academy was birth forth in August 2018 when we envisage the need for healthcare workers to be more agile and adaptive to the changes brought on by technological disruption and demographic changes. We started our journey by addressing one very fundamental change element which is the mind, helping workers to move from a fixed mindset to a growth mindset. We developed our first programme to help workers develop a positive mindset for the workplace. Since then, we have learned and grew, and more products and solutions have been added to our offerings.

About NTUC LearningHub

NTUC LearningHub is the leading Continuing Education and Training provider in Singapore which aims to transform the lifelong employability of working people. Since our corporatisation in 2004, we have been working employers and individual learners to provide learning solutions in areas such as Cybersecurity, Infocomm Technology, Healthcare, Employability & Literacy, Business Excellence, Workplace Safety & Health, Security, Human Resources and Foreign Worker Training.

To date, NTUC LearningHub has helped over 21,000 organisations and achieved over 2.5 million training places across more than 500 courses with a pool of over 400 certified trainers. As a Total Learning Solutions provider to organisations, we also forge partnerships and offer a wide range of relevant end-to-end training solutions and work constantly to improve our training quality and delivery. In 2020, we have accelerated our foray into online learning with our Virtual Live Classes and, through working with best-in-class partners such as IBM, DuPont Sustainable Solutions and GO1, asynchronous online courses.

For more information, visit www.ntuclearninghub.com.

Press Contact

Rachel Ooi
Brand & Communications Manager
Email: Rachel.ooi@ntuclearninghub.com
Mobile: +65 8100 2779

Brian San
Director, Strategy & Communications
Email: brian.san@ntuclearninghub.com
DID: +65 6486 7077

Chinese Names and Terms 中文名称与词汇

| Term | Translation |
|---|-----------------------------|
| National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) | 全国职工总会 (职总) |
| Healthcare Academy | 医疗保健学院 |
| Mr Kwek Kok Kwong, CEO of NTUC LearningHub | 郭国光先生 职总恒习私人有限公司总裁 |
| Republic Polytechnic School of Sports, Health & Leisure | 共和理工学院 体育、保健与休闲系 |
| Mr Yeo Li Pheow Principal/ CEO of Republic Polytechnic | 杨立标先生 共和理工学院院长及总裁 |
| Ngee Ann Polytechnic School of Health Sciences School of Humanities & Social Sciences | 义安理工学院 卫生科学系 人文与社会科学系 |
| Mr Clarence Ti Principal | Clarence Ti 先生 义安理工学院院长 |