

Special Report on Excellent Teachers of the 2021 Academic Year

Kao Yi-Cheng, Department of Business Administration: Respect and admire the individual characteristics of students, and see their “talents”!

Professor Kao at the Department of Business Management has been a homeroom teacher for three classes for 12 years. Professor Kao described that the role of a teacher must be sincere, be the glue that holds the class together, and help in pushing those at the bottom while pulling those at the top. Professor Kao always acts as a listener, caring person, and information provider for students’ learning, living, and future career aspects. He cares about others and shares suggestions. With such a significant influence on students, he understands that the role of a teacher is a profound one.

Being a part of everything makes him a good professor in the eyes of students

In order to pull the class together, Professor Kao looks for opportunities to spend time with students. For instance, he organizes class trips or gatherings—they have visited Yilan, the North Coast, Sun Moon Lake, and even Penghu. Professor Kao says that he becomes involved with what students are interested in, and builds mutual trust and close bonds throughout the process by initiating conversations with them, making the class atmosphere merrier and stronger. “I always share my fun experiences from university, and talk about the process of becoming a professor after working in industry. I use tutor time to get to know students. They are willing to accept and open up to me, and I have the chance to get closer and know their thoughts.”

Professor Kao especially values taking part in class activities. For instance, the annual Business Management Night is an important large-scale event for the Department of Business Management, in which every class from freshmen to juniors takes part. In addition to helping prepare the props and equipment, he also rehearses with students, and even adds funny tropes. “A class will come together when the teacher shows that he cares actively and with enthusiastic devotion!” Professor Kao always empathizes with students, communicates in their language, and expresses a caring attitude.

Professor Kao also spends time to understand their unique situations before giving suggestions to students who ask him for help. He spends time buying suitable books as gifts to encourage students who are trying for national exams or pursuing further education. “I gave out more than 30 books this year alone!” Professor Kao uses after-school hours to lead students in participating in the TBSA National Competition with excellent performances. In addition to periodic interviews, he pays attention to students’

statuses through various channels to provide necessary support and assistance at times, which always comes as a surprise to the students. One student reflects, “Professor Kao is an excellent instructor who subverted the stereotypical impressions I had about ‘teachers’ before I entered university.”

Facing various ordeals in life becomes the nutrients for transformation

Along with the different environment of different generations, Professor Kao believes that listening to students’ ideas is foundational in gaining their trust and respect. He shared with us a story that is unforgettable to him: there was an optimistic student who lost his mother. The student said that his mother never stopped making life easier for him even when she was so ill, just so that he could concentrate on his studies. Professor Kao reminded the student that his mother’s wishes were for him to complete his studies; Professor Kao also helped him through this difficult period by sharing his own experiences. After learning about the student’s economic status, Professor Kao told him about the school’s Samaritan Emergency Relief Fund. “He said to me that the resource should be used on people who actually need it, so he will not apply for it. My thought was that this kid has grown!”

Professor Kao told us that the core of his class management strategy is “pushing those at the bottom while pulling those at the top,” which not only encourages outstanding students to continue pursuing their goals, but further devotes more effort to students who are falling behind. He carefully observes the qualities inherent in each student; for instance, students who take on the roles of class representatives and director of the faculty association will receive enthusiastic responses as soon as they stand on a stage, fully demonstrating the charisma of a leader; some are extremely active in school clubs, and are very communicative and have strong coordinating skills, and they can be often seen in different events; other students demonstrate unique creativity in music and cultural creations. Professor Kao also helps students to raise their grades—in one case, he helped a student from a score of 66 to 95. Professor Kao cares about students’ living and learning statuses, and writes recommendation letters for them to support their applications for graduate school.

Other than paying attention to schoolwork, Professor Kao also cherishes conversations with students from the bottom of his heart. “It is hard to communicate effectively if the student thinks you are giving a lecture!” He reveals with a smile the key to maintaining his enthusiasm for teaching: “I love learning new things with young people.” Students in the Department of Business Management especially need to be creative; you must be able to admire the abilities of a younger generation; everyone is unique, and this is how

they can develop values that no one else can. For students who are feeling lost about their futures, Professor Kao thinks back on his own experiences at the same age. He stimulates their potential, helps them to find passion that leads to breakthroughs, and helps students to create an extraordinary future.