

**International Conference on  
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**Abstract for Day 1**

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**Service Leadership Community in Bloom**

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After 3 years of seeding, watering and nourishing, the service leadership community of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) has reached its full bloom. Diversified components in the community help students learn as apprentices, experience as practitioners and ultimately develop as service leaders. The leadership corner area at the Engineering Commons acts as a starting point to raise students’ awareness on service leadership. Students can obtain information about leadership and service leadership from slideshows, videos, printed articles and newsletters. The *EnG Chitchat*, an open idea-sharing forum which is held weekly at the corner area during the fall and spring semesters, provides opportunities for students to inquire about service leadership and to learn how their expertise can be applied to satisfy the needs of others. Positive feedback was received from students who attended the forum.

When students would like to practice service leadership, they can join the peer mentoring program (PMP). In the last 3 years, over 200 senior students became peer mentors. Besides providing academic advice, campus life information and social support to their mentees, they organize company/site visits to help the mentees understand more about different engineering disciplines for selecting the major. In a survey of how first-year students adapt to university life, over one-third of students agreed peer mentors were helpful to them and the assistance of peer mentors was useful to them in major selection.

Regarding service leader development, various service learning courses are available and open to students from different disciplines. From the trolley design for the elderly to mobile App development for hearing impaired children, students apply their expertise to satisfy the needs of certain people in the society. Aside from the technical part, students also need to plan and organize other supporting activities to ensure the project implementation. In addition to helping the people assigned by instructors, students are empowered to identify and satisfy the people’s needs on their own as we have a program of student-initiated service projects in our service leadership community.

To keep improving what we set up in the community, we continuously conduct research, aiming to discover more effective and innovative ways to promote service leadership at university. With the academic curriculum and co-curricular activities established in the community, HKUST will continue to engage students in service leadership development through continuous reviews and enhancements.

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