

## **St. Montfort Award for Illustrious Service**

### **Dr. Churdchai Cheowitirakul**

Awarded St. Montfort Award for Illustrious Service

#### **Citation**

Our core values of excellence, innovation, collaboration and accountability are the foundation of our commitment to help our student grow intellectually, personally, professionally, and culturally. What we must do differently is to make a paradigm shift away from an over-emphasis on academic results in order to better prepare our children and our people for the future.

My mission is to provide each student with an outstanding education that is affordable and accessible. We are committed to serving our students in a manner that challenges them to learn and achieve while supporting and strengthening their ability and capacity to do great things. We are thankful for their confidence in us and we pledge to justify that confidence as they continue their education at this University.

And so, I am honored and pleased to receive the Saint Montfort award today. I believe I would not be too presumptive to think that all recipients of these "academic stars" have humble beginnings: humble in their societal ranking, humble in their upbringing and humble in their conduct. But being humble does not mean poor in spirit or the lack of ambition or intelligence, because even the seemingly timid ones have shown us that their determination is simply concealed by their appearance. As the saying goes, "don't judge a book by its cover." Surely, every parent holds the dream that their children will excel in everything they do, especially in education. Equally, every student aspires to be at the top of his or her class. For the university and the professor, this presents an opportunity to complement and reciprocate the goodwill, ambition and intellect of the student. And thus a perfect match is made because an excellent teacher deserves an excellent student and vice versa. And excellence is what drives the world. But excellence has not just come to the students. They have excelled in spite of the challenges, not because they are given everything they want. They have excelled because they come from ordinarily and extraordinarily adverse conditions but their determination has overcome the obstacles. They have excelled because they have put their talent to good use. They have mastered the subject matter and they have done us proud. To the top performers, I need to remind them that their life journeys as professionals have yet to begin. But with confidence, I can say that any of our students can stand up to any other student from another university and as they say,

I give them a run for their money. I look forward to a prosperous future for our students, for their communities, and for the world as a whole. I look forward to your graduation one day soon and to you realizing your goals. In fact, I look forward to working with you in your promising future. Let's enjoy the event today, let us give thanks to all who have made this occasion possible.

Due to his outstanding services and dedication, Assumption University is pleased to award Dr. Churdchai Cheowtirakul St. Montfort Award for Illustrious Service on the auspicious date of December 24, 2018.

