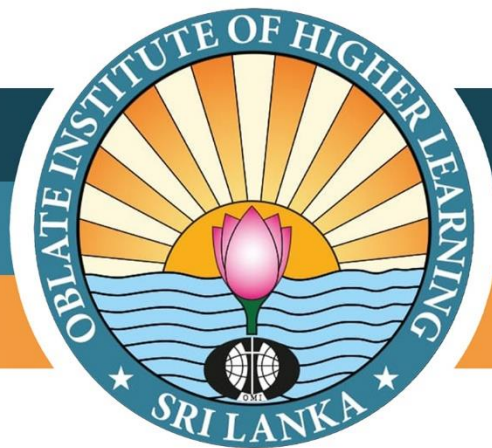




# OBULATE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING



ANNUAL NEWS BULLETIN  
2025



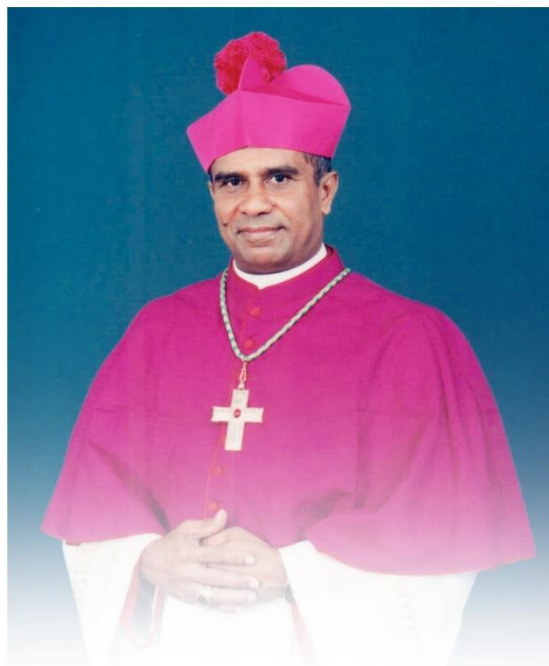
*" To be the heart of innovative learning to serve  
humanity "*

~ OUR VISION ~

## MESSAGE OF THE BISHOP

I am well pleased to send this message of felicitation to the annual bulletin of the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning (OIHL) at Dev Arana, Polwatta.

Your vision, "To Be the Heart of Innovative Learning to Serve Humanity," beautifully captures the noble mission of Catholic education in the 21st century. It speaks not only of academic excellence and ingenuity but also of a profound dedication to the common good. This spirit of service and holistic development is precisely what makes a Catholic institution an indispensable asset to our global society. Your vocation as educators is a serious and beautiful commitment.



In this context, we recall the insightful words of Pope Francis: "Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful."

It reminds us that education in Catholic institutions is a transformative endeavor. It is not merely about transmitting facts; it is about cultivating wisdom, character, and a vision of life rooted in truth, goodness, and beauty. A Catholic Higher Learning Institution, such as yours, offers an environment where faith and reason meet, where the pursuit of knowledge is integrated with a coherent, comprehensive vision of the human person created in God's image. This integration ensures that your graduates are not only technically proficient but also ethically grounded, compassionate leaders ready to tackle the world's complex challenges with both competence and conscience. Further Pope Leo XIV says, "The charism of the school ... besides being a service to society and a precious work of charity, still appears today as one of the most beautiful and eloquent expressions of that priestly, prophetic, and royal munus [public service] which we all received in Baptism, as emphasized by the documents of the Second Vatican Council."

The value of a Catholic educational institution lies in this holistic approach—in forming the head, the heart, and the hands—so that students learn not only what to know and how to do, but also who to be. By prioritizing the encounter with the living God, the service of the person, and the community, you nurture an authentic freedom that participates in the building of a more just and fraternal world. Finally, I wish to offer my most sincere congratulations to the Board of Management, the Director, Members of Staff, the students, parents, and well-wishers. May God bless you as you continue to inspire the next generation to be innovative learners who truly serve humanity.



✠ Harold Anthony Perera

**Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala (N. W. P.)**

**President - Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka**





## MESSAGE OF THE PROVINCIAL



### EDUCATION FOSTERS FORMATION AND GROWTH.

I am truly delighted to extend my warmest and heartfelt congratulations to all the students and staff of this esteemed Institution as I write these words for the Annual Magazine of the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning at Polwatta, Minuwangoda. It is with great joy that I celebrate your achievements and the collective spirit that make this institution a beacon of learning and growth.

Education stands at the very core of human development and societal progress. It is much more than the mere transmission of information or acquisition of technical skills; it is a sacred journey of formation that shapes the whole person—mind, heart, and spirit. It prepares individuals not only to excel in their chosen fields but also to engage with the world with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. In a world marked by rapid change and complexity, the role of education as a formative process cannot be overstated. It carries the profound responsibility of cultivating leaders, thinkers, and citizens capable of fostering positive transformation within their communities and beyond.

Here at the esteemed Oblate Institute of Higher Learning at Dev Arana, Polwatta, we embrace education as a dynamic and holistic process. The intellectual formation we provide is a fertile ground from which curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity arise. Yet, we also recognize that true education nurtures character and virtue. It shapes individuals who listen attentively, act empathetically, and stand courageously for justice.

Education, therefore, is fundamentally formative—it molds not only the intellect but also the inner life, values, and purpose of each learner. Understanding education as formation means acknowledging it as a transformative encounter that changes the person at their core. Through this formation, individuals awaken to their own potential and dignity. They acquire the capacity to ask profound questions about life, meaning, and justice. Most importantly, this process cultivates a deep sense of responsibility toward others and a genuine commitment to the common good.

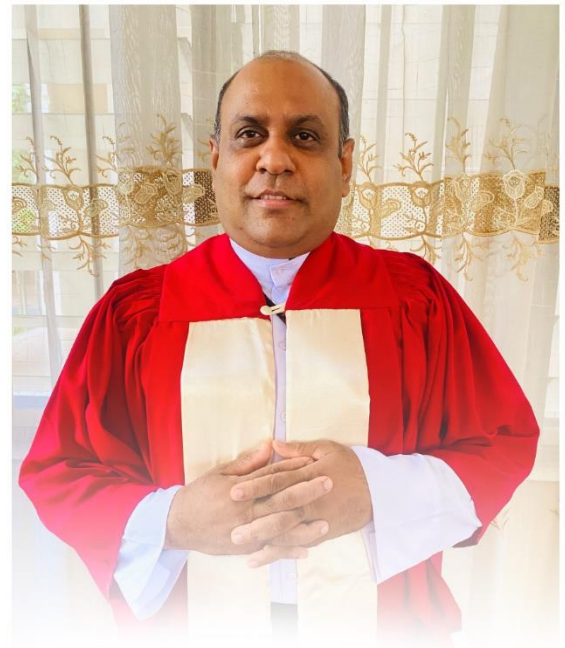
While lectures and textbooks form valuable foundations for higher education, formation extends far beyond the classroom. It unfolds through lived experience—dialogue, community involvement, service, and reflection. Our institution encourages students to transcend academic knowledge and immerse themselves in the pressing realities and challenges of our time.

Today, as we celebrate another graduation day, we remind ourselves that formation does not end with a diploma. True education plants seeds that continue to grow throughout a lifetime, transforming learning into a lifelong pilgrimage. It is a journey of continual discovery where one responds to new questions, adapts to change, and deepens understanding. To our students, staff, and friends of this institution, I offer this sincere message: Embrace education as a sacred and transformative formation. Allow it to shape not only your mind but also your heart and hands. Let it awaken your deepest sense of purpose and inspire your commitment to service. To our learners, be curious, courageous, and humble. Know that your education equips you not just for a career but for a mission—to be builders of justice, peace, and human flourishing. To our educators and administrators, remain steadfast in nurturing the flame of formation in every aspect of this institution. Your dedication quietly and powerfully shapes the future. May this institution continue to shine as a beacon of holistic education and formative growth for generations to come.

Fr. Roshan J. L. Silva OMI  
Provincial Superior.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning is committed to providing quality education and fostering spiritual growth. This annual report highlights our achievements and progress over the past year. It showcases the collective efforts of our students and staff in advancing knowledge, fostering creativity, and serving the community." As we look back on the past year, we recognize the power of collaboration, innovation, and community in driving our institution's success." As a beacon of higher learning, our institution remains dedicated to shaping the minds of future leaders and making a positive impact. "The past year has been marked by significant milestones, achievements, and progress toward our strategic goals.



## SHORT HISTORY

The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning was inaugurated on 21st May 2016 when the Oblates in Sri Lanka celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation. It was established as an umbrella institute with an immediate focus on national reconciliation and peacebuilding. However, the aim was to develop it into a fully pledged higher education institute, which could organize degrees, diploma programs, Certificate courses, retreats, seminars, and personality and skill development programs. Late Rev. Dr. Oswald Firth OMI was the First and founding Director of OIHL.

Following the proposal of the Provincial Congress held in 2018, OIHL, which was at CSR, Maradana, Colombo 10, was shifted to Dev Arana Oblate Centre, Polwatta, Minuwangoda, having its physical facility. In January 2021, OIHL was established at Dev Arana, Polwatta, Minuwangoda. Having conducted the Diploma in Conflict and Peace Studies for 4 years, the year 2021 was taken for evaluation. In December 2021, Rev. Fr. Asanga Viraj OMI was appointed as the Director of OIHL.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

During the year 2025, we offered 9 study programs: A Diploma in Psychological Counselling, A diploma in Teacher Formation, A Diploma in Spoken English, an Italian Language Course, a Japanese Language Course, Basic English Courses for Post A/L students, Post O/L students, an English immersion course, and an ICT course.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

All our faculty members hold degrees and postgraduate degrees from recognized universities. During the academic year 2025, Fr. George Sulonithan OMI joined our academic staff to strengthen our Institution, and we were privileged to have Mr. Kosala Perera as our ICT lecturer and Ms. Imasha Sirisena to help us prepare our students to learn the Japanese language. They added more colour to our academic staff with their knowledge and skills.



## INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES

The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning's facility renovation has significantly enhanced our learning environment. We've upgraded classrooms with modern technology, including projectors, creating an engaging space for students to learn and grow. The renovation also included making a movable stage and improving space and facilities in dining areas, providing students with more space to move freely and enjoy their stay. Additionally, improvements to our library and study areas offer students quiet spaces for study and collaboration, while energy-efficient designs and sustainable materials demonstrate our commitment to environmental responsibility. These upgrades have not only improved the aesthetic appeal of our institution but also created a more conducive environment for academic excellence and personal growth. We are thankful to our Provincial and Provincial Treasurer for their support.

## FUTURE PLANS

With trust and confidence in Almighty God and the ever-loving maternal care of Mary Immaculate and St Eugene De Mazenod, we are planning for the academic year of 2026 by strengthening the courses that we already offer and thinking about introducing new courses to meet the demands of society and the church. As we move forward, we remain steadfast in our commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student success. We also think about introducing online programs to reach a broader audience and to build up partnerships with local and international institutions.

To our dedicated and exceptional staff, I express my deep appreciation for your commitment and hard work. Your unwavering dedication to excellence and your passion for teaching play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our students. To the parents, I extend my gratitude for your constant support and trust in our vision. Your involvement in your child's education and active participation in their activities strengthen the foundation of their success. To the students, I encourage you to be curious, fearless in your pursuit of knowledge, and compassionate in your interactions. Remember that education is not just about grades but about developing a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime.

We are also reminded of the importance of recognizing and celebrating these achievements. Awards ceremonies like this one serve as a reminder that our efforts are not in vain and that they are having a positive impact on the world around us. They are a source of inspiration and motivation, and they help to reinforce the importance of hard work, dedication, and perseverance.

As we celebrate the achievements of our awardees today, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on your own accomplishments and to be proud of the work that you have done. Whether you are a recipient of an award or simply an attendee, you are a part of this community, and you have a role to play in building a better future for all.

So, let us celebrate this moment, this awards ceremony, with joy and gratitude. Let us recognize and honor the achievements of our awardees, and let us be inspired to continue our own journey of growth and development. In the end, it's not just about what we have achieved, but about the hope and promise that lies ahead. We are grateful for the journey and excited for the future. Thank you for your continued support and partnership. May God continue to guide us in our mission to empower minds and transform lives.

God bless you all.

Rev. Dr. Asanga Viraj, OMI  
Director of the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning

## NOTE FROM A MEMBER OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

### THE VALUE OF EDUCATION

#### *INTRODUCTION*

Education has always been recognized as the cornerstone of individual growth and social progress. It is both a personal journey and a collective responsibility, shaping not only the destiny of the learner but also that of a nation. As Nelson Mandela famously stated, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” This truth resounds profoundly today, especially within institutions such as the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning, where education is not merely a transmission of knowledge but also an awakening of values, critical thinking, and social responsibility.

#### *THE PHILOSOPHICAL FOUNDATION OF EDUCATION*

Education, in its deepest sense, is not restricted to the mere acquisition of facts or the mastery of professional skills. Rather, it embodies what Plato envisioned as the “turning of the soul towards the light.” Through education, individuals are led from ignorance to enlightenment, from mere opinion to reasoned understanding.

John Dewey, a pioneering philosopher of education, emphasized that “Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself.” In this view, education is a continuous, life-long process that integrates experience, reflection, and growth. It does not end at graduation but evolves as one engages with the complexities of society. At the Oblate Institute, this philosophy is visible in our holistic approach—where academic rigor is combined with ethical values and spiritual growth, ensuring that students are formed as whole persons.

#### *THE VALUE OF EDUCATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL*

From a psychological and human development perspective, education is the key to personal empowerment. Jean Piaget’s theory of cognitive development explains that learners construct knowledge actively, moving from simple understanding to complex reasoning. Vygotsky complements this with the idea that learning is socially mediated—highlighting the importance of community, dialogue, and collaboration.

#### *An individual who is educated enjoys multiple benefits:*

Cognitive Empowerment – the ability to think critically, solve problems, and adapt to new challenges.

Moral and Ethical Grounding – through exposure to diverse perspectives, literature, and social sciences, education cultivates empathy, tolerance, and justice.

Professional Competence – education equips individuals with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their chosen vocations.

Spiritual Maturity – within a faith-based higher learning environment, education nurtures the spiritual dimension of the learner, fostering discernment and service.

As Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “Education is an act of love, it is to give life.” Thus, education transcends technical knowledge to become an act of humanization.





## ***THE VALUE OF EDUCATION TO SOCIETY***

An educated individual is not an isolated product; he or she is a citizen whose learning contributes to the well-being of the community. Durkheim, the French sociologist, argued that education is the means by which society perpetuates its values, norms, and cohesion. In Sri Lanka, the importance of education has been historically evident. From the monastic centers of learning in ancient times to the modern universities of today, education has shaped the social fabric of the nation. It is through educated citizens that democracy thrives, economies grow, and peace is maintained.

Furthermore, in a globalized world, knowledge is the new capital. Countries that invest in education are better positioned to innovate, to compete, and to respond to crises such as climate change, poverty, and inequality. Thus, education is both a personal right and a social necessity-what UNESCO describes as a “common good.”

## ***THE CHRISTIAN AND OBLATE VISION OF EDUCATION***

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate, inspired by their charism, have always placed education at the heart of their mission. St. Eugene de Mazenod, the founder, believed deeply in the power of instruction to uplift the poor and to evangelize society. He insisted that education should be an avenue not only for intellectual formation but also for moral and spiritual renewal.

The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning continues this legacy by providing a space where faith and reason meet. Education here is not a neutral process but one rooted in Gospel values, where love, justice, and service to the marginalized are emphasized. The Church has always regarded education as integral to its mission. The Second Vatican Council’s *Gravissimum Educationis* states: “True education is directed towards the formation of the human person in view of his end and the good of that society to which he belongs.” This holistic vision aligns with our mission to form graduates who are competent professionals and compassionate leaders.

## ***CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION***

In the modern era, education faces multiple challenges: digital transformation, economic pressures, cultural pluralism, and ethical dilemmas posed by scientific advancements. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed both the vulnerabilities and the resilience of educational systems worldwide. Online learning became a necessity, but it also highlighted the digital divide and the importance of human presence in the learning process. As teachers and educators, we are called to respond to these challenges with creativity and dedication. Our role is not limited to imparting knowledge but extends to mentoring, guiding, and inspiring our students. The words of Paulo Freire are relevant here: “Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom.” The task of higher education is to foster freedom-the capacity to think independently, to act responsibly, and to serve humanity.

## ***EDUCATION AS TRANSFORMATION***

Ultimately, the value of education lies in transformation. It transforms ignorance into knowledge, dependence into autonomy, and selfishness into service. It transforms societies by reducing poverty, promoting peace, and fostering sustainable development. In the Sri Lankan context, education is the pathway to reconciliation, inter-religious harmony, and national progress. It provides the younger generation with the tools to rise above divisions and to build a future of solidarity. The Oblate Institute of Higher Learning stands as a beacon of such transformative education. By integrating intellectual, spiritual, and ethical dimensions, it seeks to form leaders who are not only skilled professionals but also compassionate human beings-leaders who embody the motto of St. Eugene de Mazenod: “He has sent me to evangelize the poor.”

## ***CONCLUSION***

Education is not a luxury, but a necessity; it is not an option, but a mission. Its value lies not only in economic advancement but in human flourishing. It empowers the individual, strengthens society, and fulfills the Christian vision of integral human development. At this Annual Awarding Ceremony, as we celebrate the achievements of our students, we are reminded that education is both a gift and a responsibility. May we, as educators and learners, continue to uphold its true value-seeking wisdom, nurturing virtue, and serving humanity.

As Aristotle once said, “The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.” May the fruits of education at this institute continue to enrich the lives of our students and contribute to the future of our beloved Sri Lanka.

## EXPERIENCE SHARING

### SPOKEN ENGLISH

**“OIHL” IS THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION  
TO MASTER ENGLISH EFFORTLESSLY,  
WHERE LEARNING BECOMES AN  
EXCITING JOURNEY.”**

I am Sr. Yvonne, a contemplative Rosarian Nun. First of all, I thank God for being with me throughout this journey. Without His help, I could not have achieved what I have. I also thank our Rev Mother General for giving me this wonderful opportunity to learn the English Language. Since the beginning of my studies, “Dev Arana” Oblate Institute of Higher Learning has offered me not only education but also moral values in a peaceful religious environment. This environment helped me to focus and learn effectively.

During the past ten months, I have completed not only a diploma in Spoken English but also a diploma in Psychological Counselling, a month-long English Course, and a four-month Computer Course. This learning journey has been a wonderful experience for me. I am very grateful to our Rev. Fr. Asanga and Rev. Fr. Charuka for their love, dedication, and support. Their encouragement has inspired me every day. This learning experience has given me a lot of confidence to speak and express myself clearly. It is more than just learning English; it is about growing spiritually and morally. When I first started the diploma course, I had both excitement and nervousness, but with perseverance and dedication, I gradually began to see progress in myself. The Rev. Fathers were patient and kind, which made the learning process easy and enjoyable. This diploma course helped me to improve my language skills, including the ability to use correct grammar and to express ideas with the right vocabulary, and to improve my confidence. We practiced pronunciation, debate, speeches, and so on. May God bless the Rev. Fathers for their hard work and service to society. I am filled with gratitude for this opportunity. May their mission be successful.



Rev. Sr. Yvonne CR



## EXPERIENCE SHARING PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING



Although I joined this psychological counselling course intending to gain some experience in my life, while attending this, I realized that this is not only a course to benefit my personal life, but also it opens the doors to others who seek the assistance of a comforter.

‘Dev Arana’ is actually a place where we experienced the presence of God. Although we are adult students, we had a very close relationship with our priest lecturers. We were eagerly waiting for the break to share the snack among ourselves. Although Rev. Fr. Asanga Viraj is the administrator of this place, he is too humble to everyone. He is very generous to all of us and shows paternal affection. We were fortunate to taste the fruits from their Garden.

Rev. Sr. Celinta Fernando laid the foundation for the course, “Introduction to Psychology.” She gradually convinced us to watch with eyes of compassion. Taking different examples and sharing her own experiences, she showed us the spirit of “Faithfulness,” which is the basis of one’s life story. The importance of presenting ourselves in society by developing our personality, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially was her main task. We loved the way she taught.

Rev Fr. Subash Fernando dealt with cognitive behaviour therapy. He tried to empower us to identify the thoughts of others and help them in order to adjust their own behaviour. While practicing several situations among our colleagues, we really became strong in our personal lives. We shared our personal matters and discussed them in several counselling sessions, which gave us a marvellous experience.

Being an active listener, we came to know the four major goals of Psychology: to describe, to explain, to predict, and to change. Rev. Fr. Chrishantha Jayalath became “Our New Father”. We must be really grateful to him. His teaching was a breakthrough for each one of us who rush with our daily routines as parents. Areas like Controlling anger, Positive Psychology, Self-awareness, and Personality development were handled successfully in his lectures. He tried hard to inculcate these skills within us. Accompanying, confidentiality, empathy, and active listening, etc, were some of the techniques that stuck hard in my mind. I think we will miss him a lot after leaving this place.

‘Man is not the problem; the Problem is the problem’ echoes in my mind always. Rev. Fr. Reginold Fernando was very keen on this saying to adjust our minds towards positive thinking. “Narrative Therapy” was not familiar to us compared with the previous learning, but later, we became content with the proceedings he tried out. Externalization, Re-membering, and deconstruction were the basic techniques we learnt from him. Being a Psychological learner, I experienced the necessity of fair and positive relationships to heal a mentally and socially wounded person. I understood that helping such a person is a great worthy course, rather than doing a job.

Finally, I thank the Rev. Fathers and the Rev. sister, for strengthening us with all above mentioned skills. Your support, guidance, and dedicated teaching have made a real difference in us. We leave the place not just as the same persons as arrived. So dear fathers, on behalf of my colleagues, I wish you all God’s abundance of blessings upon your future endeavours.

Nirmala Delrin Perera

## EXPERIENCE SHARING

### ICT COURSE

I am a Teacher of English Language and the second language Sinhalese at Watala Mabola Al Ashrall school. As you know, from the beginning to the end of the school hours, we are engaged in activities with the students. When I was transferred to the above-mentioned school in 2007, I can't exactly remember the year, there was a short period of time of an ICT awareness workshop, and most of the teachers got the chance to follow it; I too was able to follow it. I was able to type a letter, type marks, but the total and average were automatically typed when any person fills in the name and the marks, because it was done by the IT teacher, but regardless, I was able to add and divide the sum.



I really had an eagerness to learn more and more, but unfortunately, the days went by. When I was asking a past student, she said that she was going to a course at Watala, but the thing was the time and days, which were the barriers for me to go.

While I intended to follow an IT course, I heard the announcement of the IT course at Minuwangoda Polwatta Dev Arana after attending the counseling course. I was very happy as my ambition was fulfilled. I am thankful to you, Rev. Father Asanga Viraj, for giving us a superb lecturer from Aquinas College. I really appreciate your vision to conduct courses for everyone to make not only the young ones but also us, the elders, for a successful journey.

May God the Almighty bless you and spread his love in every way.

Best regards;

Marcellin Sharmila Fernando



## EXPERIENCE SHARING TEACHER FORMATION

### THE EXPERIENCES I GAINED THROUGH THE TEACHER FORMATION COURSE

I participated in the Teacher Formation course, conducted by the Fathers at OIHL, in 2025. This course consisted of eight months, and every day, many valuable elements were added to the life of a teacher, the aim of which was to develop new knowledge, soft skills, self-confidence, and personality that a teacher should have. As a teacher, the knowledge and experiences that I gained during this short period with our Fathers and Sister were a significant step in my teaching life.

This course, from the beginning, focuses on the role of a teacher, lecture preparation, lesson planning, teaching methods, the use of ICT, controlling students' behavior, and how to understand students psychologically. In addition, we also met with group activities, practical experiences, presentations, and assignments to create support and unity among us. In this short period of eight months, we found answers to many questions, such as how to change the behavior of children, how to bring their minds to one place through meditation, how to attract children to us and make them flexible, and how to keep them interested in education.

We also paid special attention to the contribution that a teacher should make to the education of children and how to provide feedback if their education is not at an ideal level. We also talked about controlling children's emotions and how they should accept victory and defeat. Also, through this course, we were aware of the development of children's education, teaching children of different intelligence levels through other activities, and monitoring their progress. Also, it was emphasized that we, as teachers, should act as a mother and father to the child and that we should protect the safety and privacy of students. We had the opportunity to learn many things that we needed to know as teachers.

I am very grateful to our professors at OIHL who have nurtured us in every way through this opportunity. We sincerely appreciate the humility of all of you who have always shared your invaluable wisdom and experiences with us. We also express our gratitude to our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Anton Niroshan OMI, who directed us and made this valuable opportunity possible in our lives. Once again, thank you very much, Dear Fr. Asanga OMI, Fr. Chamika OMI, Fr. Chrishantha OMI, Fr. Charuka OMI & Sr. Celinta RGS.

- S.K. Sithum Duljaya -

## EXPERIENCE SHARING

### ENGLISH POST A/L

#### A HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR THE ENGLISH COURSE AT OIHL.

Being a part of this enriching course at the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning (OIHL) feels like both a stroke of luck and a true blessing.

This course was more than just learning a language; it was a journey through the world, guided by fathers' words. Fathers introduced concepts gradually, progressing from the simple to the more complex to ensure a clear understanding. They also gave individual attention to every student, guiding them carefully to stay on the right track in their learning journey.



They employed highly interactive teaching methods such as roleplays, group activities, and debates. Through these engaging sessions, we developed strong bonds with our colleagues and gradually overcame our shyness and fear of speaking in front of others. Our reading, speaking, and writing skills grew steadily through a simple, stress-free process that was both productive and encouraging. The methods used helped students easily grasp and remember the concepts.

Fathers didn't just teach us English; they opened our eyes to the world around us. They shared their wisdom, helping us understand both the beauty and struggles of society. Their guidance shaped our lives, not just academically, but as individuals ready to face the challenges of the world. With patience and dedication, they not only taught us discipline but also prepared us for life beyond the classroom. They instilled in us a sense of responsibility and a mindset that will continue to guide us long after the course ends.

As the course comes to an end, I realize that I have not only learned English but also gained invaluable wisdom. What Rev. Fr. Asanga told us at the very beginning of the class — "To learn, you must unlearn" — is a powerful piece of advice that still echoes in my mind and will surely remain with me forever. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Asanga, Rev. Fr. Charuka, and Rev. Fr. Amila, whose invaluable guidance made a remarkable impact on sharpening our grammar, writing, and spoken communication skills. Their unwavering support truly elevated our abilities and boosted our confidence. Your efforts, much like the stars, have illuminated our path, and I am deeply grateful for every word of guidance you have shared.

G. H. Vinuki Omalmi  
Post AL Batch 2025



## EXPERIENCE SHARING

### ENGLISH POST O/L



**“LANGUAGE LEARNING IS NOT ONLY ABOUT WORDS, BUT ABOUT PERSONAL GROWTH AND MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS.”**

I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to share my experience at the three-month post-OL English course at the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning. This journey has brought about a remarkable transformation in my life, not only in my English proficiency but also in my personal growth and confidence. First and foremost, I thank Almighty God for His unwavering support and guidance throughout these three months. Without His blessings, this achievement would not have been possible. We were also truly fortunate to be guided by excellent and dedicated instructors: Rev. Fr. Asanga Viraj, OMI; Rev. Fr. Hashan Charuka, OMI; and Rev. Fr. Philip George, OMI. Their commitment, patience, and encouragement were the driving forces behind our progress.

This course marked a significant milestone in our English language learning journey. It was carefully designed to comprehensively develop all four key skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. We started by strengthening our understanding of the basics and gradually progressed to tackling more advanced topics and real-life applications. The lessons were interactive and engaging, often involving group discussions, debates, and presentations. These activities not only improved our ability to communicate fluently but also helped us to think critically, express ourselves confidently, and understand different perspectives.

Among the many memorable experiences, our annual excursion to Kalpitiya holds a special place in my heart. It was a perfect blend of learning and leisure. Surrounded by the beauty of nature, we shared laughter, stories, and unforgettable moments that strengthened our friendships. This trip reminded us that learning can happen anywhere—not just inside a classroom—but also through the bonds we form and the experiences we share.

We also had the chance to participate in a formal debate, which tested our ability to think quickly, speak clearly, and defend our opinions with confidence. This experience, though challenging, greatly enhanced our public speaking skills. Additionally, small but meaningful celebrations such as birthday parties brought joy to our routine and created a warm, welcoming atmosphere among us. On our final day, we attended a special Mass, followed by a lively farewell party. This event was a heartfelt celebration of our hard work, growth, and the friendships we had built.

The guidance we received from our priests was invaluable. Rev. Fr. Asanga motivated us to persevere through challenges and never give up. Rev. Fr. Charuka gave us strategies to improve our reading and writing while enhancing our computing skills. Rev. Fr. Philip George encouraged us to overcome our fear of speaking and express ourselves in English without hesitation. Step by step, we moved from shy, broken sentences to confident speeches and well-structured essays.

Beyond language skills, this course taught us valuable life lessons—leadership, discipline, punctuality, cleanliness, teamwork, empathy, and sensitivity towards others. Most importantly, we learned that the relationships we build are just as valuable as the knowledge we gain.

In conclusion, I realized that learning a language is not just about mastering vocabulary or grammar; it is about self-discovery, developing confidence, and forming connections that can last a lifetime. The Oblate Institute provided the perfect environment for us to grow, both as students and as individuals. These three months have truly been life-changing, leaving us with not only better English but also a stronger sense of who we are and what we can achieve.

"Every experience shapes our story, and every friendship becomes a treasured part of our lives."

- S. Senal Nimangsha Perera -



# NAME LIST OF THE STUDENTS OF VARIOUS COURSES 2025

## DIPLOMA IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

1. Therese Sriyani Manatunga
2. Kumarasinghe Hettiarachchige Ishani  
Sadeena Kumarasinghe Perera
3. Iduruwa Acharige Dedunu Shashikala
4. Sangapala Arachchige Dona Nisali  
Shavindi Dissanayake
5. Rev. Sr. Mary Caniciya Thevathas
6. Kalubowilage Ashinsana Sajjani Perera
7. Meththissage Dona Dilasha Shiroshani  
Innocent Payoe
8. Uswatta Liyanage Jude Calistus  
Dayananda Perera
9. Galkissage Lahiru Shamod
10. Rev. Sr. Fernando Mary Selvathy
11. Rev. Sr. Alawathurage Mary  
Yvonne Susima

## DIPLOMA IN PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING

1. Dilani Veronika Hopwood
2. Rev. Bro. Warnakulasuriya Rajith Fernando
3. Rev. Bro. Jayakody Arachchige Don  
Mark Prasanna
4. Mahapatabandige Nirmala Delrin Perera
5. Wilathgamuwa Brenda Judy Yamica  
Wilathgamuwa
6. Don Ann Ishara Upamali Mawala
7. Senevirathne Mudalige Marian Nelka Milani
8. Vinodi Raveena Bulathsinhala
9. Thamodani Wickramasinghe
10. Warnakulasooriya Mirium Randima Rowel
11. Warnakulasuriya Arachchige  
Dona Kokila Maduwanthi
12. Lidamulage Nilmini Fernando
13. Rev. Sr. Alawathurage Mary Yvonne Susima

## DIPLOMA IN TEACHER FORMATION

1. Madurapperuma Pathiranalage  
Shenali Sasanka Madurapperuma
2. Sekara Kuruppu Sithum Duljaya
3. Solanga Arachchige Don Nilakshi Dinelka
4. Dahami Shehara Dewduni Schokman
5. Jayakody Arachchige  
Dona Darshani Sandamali
6. Palandage Nethmi Kaushalya



## ENGLISH COURSE POST A/L

1. Senadhipati Mudiyanseleage Kushagra  
Yasas Kithmina
2. Maddumage Savinu Sharon Fernando
3. Karunaguna Kosthage Samitha  
Lukshan Perera
4. Siyambalapitiyage Iresh Marinda De Silva
5. Manamalage Malindu Anuhas Fernando
6. Sangapala Arachchige Dulmini  
Nethra Dissanayaka
7. Yakdehige Ridmi Himasha
8. Rajapakshe Gamaralage Manith  
Vajrajith Rajapaksha
9. Warnakulasuriya Dewdan Manusha Perera
10. Kilivitage Sasmi Silunya Fernando
11. Ranpati Dewage Binusha Divanjagi
12. Mereggnage Amaya Sachindi Perera
13. Naidappulage Tharini Heshani Fernando
14. Nethmi Hansani Fernando
15. Lakshapathi Maha Vidanalage  
Sanduni Tharushika De Mel
16. Galbokka Hewage Vinuki Omalmi
17. Kalitha Amanda Ubeysekera
18. Galketiwala Wimalasurendralage  
Shelini Nimthaki Galketiwala
19. Kammallaweera Prabodha Shashini  
Jayasinghe
20. Kammallaweera Aruni Sepalika Jayasinghe
21. Rev. Sr. Fernando Mariya Selvathy
22. Rev. Sr. Robertsini Nobert
23. Rev. Sr. Alawathurage Mary  
Yvonne Susima
24. Badde Liyanage Don Sandeepani  
Upuli Ann Kumari Pieris
25. Warnakulasooriya Palakuttige  
Nipun Sankalpa Perera
26. Mapatunage Gehani Tharindya Perera
27. Bastiyan Korallalage Devon Christiyan  
Rodrigo
28. Rev. Sr. Caniciya Thevathas

## ENGLISH COURSE POST O/L

1. Thilakamuni Srishane Dinuja Soyza
2. Dinarathna Arachige Savindu  
Imansa Dinarathna
3. Ilangasinha Kalukumara Mudiyanseleage  
Ashen Dasuntha Kumarasinha
4. Deyaella Devage Thaveesha Oshen Jayarathna
5. Paththapperuma Arachchige Chamodi  
Jayamini Perera
6. Narandeniya Ganegamage Kevan seniru  
Ganegama
7. Warnakulasuriya Mahamuthugala  
Kamkanamlage Senith Dulaj Fernando
8. Weliveriya Liyanage Isuri Anjani
9. Luvispurage Suzane Thaggya Fernando
10. Dilana Nethmika Kasthuriarachchi
11. Eluwane Mudiyanseleage Rashmika  
Hashen Abesingha
12. Dona Roshell Ureni Sulakshi Dasanayake
13. Warnakulasuriya Karmela Amashi Fernando
14. Pasckuwelge Don Nihara Dewmini  
Wickramasinghe
15. Bataduwege Tasmi Shehara Perera
16. Udukumbure Mudiyanseleage Binara  
Pansilu Bandara Abeyrathna
17. Hewathanthrige Disheni Dihanya Peiris
18. Shenon Nethan Antoniyo Gomes
19. Indurage Prabodha Sandali Prabhawari  
Dayarathna
20. Pitagampalage Himaya Dewmini Wijesundara
21. Liyanage Rusiru Thanushka Perera
22. Kariyawasam Athukoralage Don Shehara  
Nirmal Athukorala
23. Eran Ernest Steinwall
24. Matara Kirige Sandali Akasha Fernando
25. Pathamestrege Enosh Shaluka Perera
26. Jayasinha Arachchilage Miyasi  
Pabasara Jayasinha
27. Kariyawasam Ranagallage Vishmi  
Vilochana Kariyawasam
28. Malinsa Sanuji Ranasinghe
29. Salpadoruge Senal Nimangsha Perera
30. Kolonna Appuhamilage Janani Chandali
31. Withanapathirannehelage Dulana Nuwanapul
32. Thissa Arachchige Nesanda Hirunitha Senarath

## I.C.T. FOR BEGINNERS

1. Galkatidewage Senush Rovith
2. Wedage Dimalsha Hirushani
3. Ilangasinha Kalukumara Mudiyanseelage  
Ashen Dasuntha Kumarasinha
4. Weda Mesthrige Nethmi Devindi Silva
5. Hettiyadura Sanjana Dewmini Fernando
6. Marcellin Sharmila Fernando
7. Uswatta Liyanage Jude Calistus  
Dayananda Perera
8. Rev. Sr. W. P. Lourdes Shirani Perera
9. Kotagedara Liyanage Rupika  
Alponsa Perera
10. Rev. Sr. Alawathurage Mary Yvonne  
Susima Perera

## ENGLISH IMMERSION COURSE

1. Kalubovilage Anne Kavindya  
Reshma Perera
2. Warnasooriya Mudiyanseelage Aparna  
Sewmini Udayangana Fernando
3. Nakanda Pathiranage Gimna Gangulal
4. Colomba Modarapatabedige  
Dinal Nethsara Perera
5. M. V. D. S. N. Suwaris





# GROUP PHOTOS OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2025

**POST O/L GROUP**

**POST A/L GROUP**



**DIPLOMA IN  
SPOKEN ENGLISH**

**DIPLOMA IN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING**



**DIPLOMA IN  
TEACHER FORMATION**

**ICT FOR  
BEGINNERS**

**JAPANESE  
COURSE**



# ANNUAL EXCURSIONS





# VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AT OIHL



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AOIHL IN SOUTH AFRICA





# CERTIFICATE AWARDING CEREMONY 2024



# DEBATE COMPETITION





## MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

### 01. PROFESSOR ANTON MEEMANA.

PhD (Philosophical Theology, University of Manila, Philippines)

### 02. REV. DR. JERARD DE ROSAIRO, OMI.

STL (Licentiate in Fundamental Theology, Gregorian University, Rome, Italy), MA (Master in Indian Philosophy, University of Poonei, India), PhD (Based on FABC Documents Evangelization in Asia, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka)

### 03. REV. DR. ASANGA VIRAJ, OMI.

PhD (Church History and the Cultural Patrimony of the Church, Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)

### 04. REV. DR. CELINTA, RGS.

BA in Kelaniya University, MA in Psychology and Counselling (Bangalore University, India), PhD in Management (Jayawardanapura University), and Postgraduate Diploma in Women's studies in the Philippines.

### 05. REV. FR. CHRISHANTHA JAYALATH, OMI.

MA (Counselling and Psychotherapy, Cainmilliar School of Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy, Melbourne, Australia)

### 06. REV. FR. JAMES JAYASINGHE, OMI.

LCL (Licentiate in Canon Law, St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada)

### 07. REV. FR. ROSHAN SILVA, OMI.

STL (Licentiate in Spirituality, Gregorian University, Rome, Italy)

### 08. REV. FR. ANTON GRECIAN, OMI.

BA (University of Kelaniya), Diploma in Economics Development (University of Colombo), MA (Master in Economics, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka)

### 09. REV. FR. SUBASH FERNANDO, OMI.

MA (Master of Counselling, Notre Dame University, Australia)

### 10. REV. FR. REGINALD JAYAMAHA, OMI.

MA (Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work, University of Melbourne, Australia)

### 11. REV. FR. ERIC LAKMAN, OMI.

MTh, MPhil (Master in Theology, Master in Philosophy, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium)

### 12. REV. FR. SHANIL JAYAWARDENA, OMI.

Lic. Social Com. (Licentiate in Social Communications, Holy Cross University, Rome, Italy)

### 13. REV. FR. CHARUKA NAMAL, OMI.

B.Ph., B.Th. (Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome, Italy)

### 14. REV. FR. AMILA PERERA, OMI.

BA INR (Sp) (University of Colombo), B. Th. (Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome, Italy), Dip in Philosophy (National Seminary, Ampitiya, Sri Lanka), Dip in English (Aquinas College, Colombo).

### 15. REV. FR. CHAMIKA SUDARSHANA, OMI.

B.Ph., B.Th. (Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome, Italy).

### 16. DR. SACHITHA KALUM.

Masters of Arts in International Relations (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka), Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training (Innovatus Campus, Sri Lanka), Master of Laws - LLM in International Humans (Birmingham City University, UK), Master of Business Administration (C.D.A. College – Cyprus), Post Graduate Diploma in Strategic Management (OTHM Qualification – UK), Master of Science in Education (Aldersgate College – Philippine), Post Graduate Diploma in Bio Statistics (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), MBBS (University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka), B.S.C. Certificate Level (IDM Colombo Campus, Sri Lanka)

### 17. REV. FR. GEORGE SULONITHAN, OMI.

B.Ph., B.Th. (Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome, Italy).

### 18. MS. IMASHA SIRISENA.

BA (Hons) in Japanese, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka.

### 19. MR. KOSALA PERERA.

BIT (UCSC), Dip. in Multimedia (WYTECH).



# OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE YEAR 2025

Dear Loving **Kevan Seniru**

"Congratulations on your impressive achievements in both academics and extracurricular responsibilities. Your ability to balance and excel in multiple areas is truly commendable.

Wishing you continued success and growth!"

- OBLATE INSTITUTE OF HIGHER LEARNING -  
2025 . 11 . 08





## OUR THANKS



**“GRATITUDE MAKES SENSE OF OUR PAST,  
BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY, AND  
CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW.”**

First and foremost, we offer our deepest thanks to the Lord for His countless blessings and unwavering presence throughout this year. His grace has guided every step of our journey.

We are profoundly grateful to Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony, Bishop of the diocese of Kurunagala, for gracing the award ceremony of the Oblate Institute of Higher Learning. Our sincere appreciation extends to Very Rev. Fr. Roshan Silva OMI and Rev. Fr. Anton Grecian OMI for their steadfast support and encouragement, which have been instrumental to our progress.

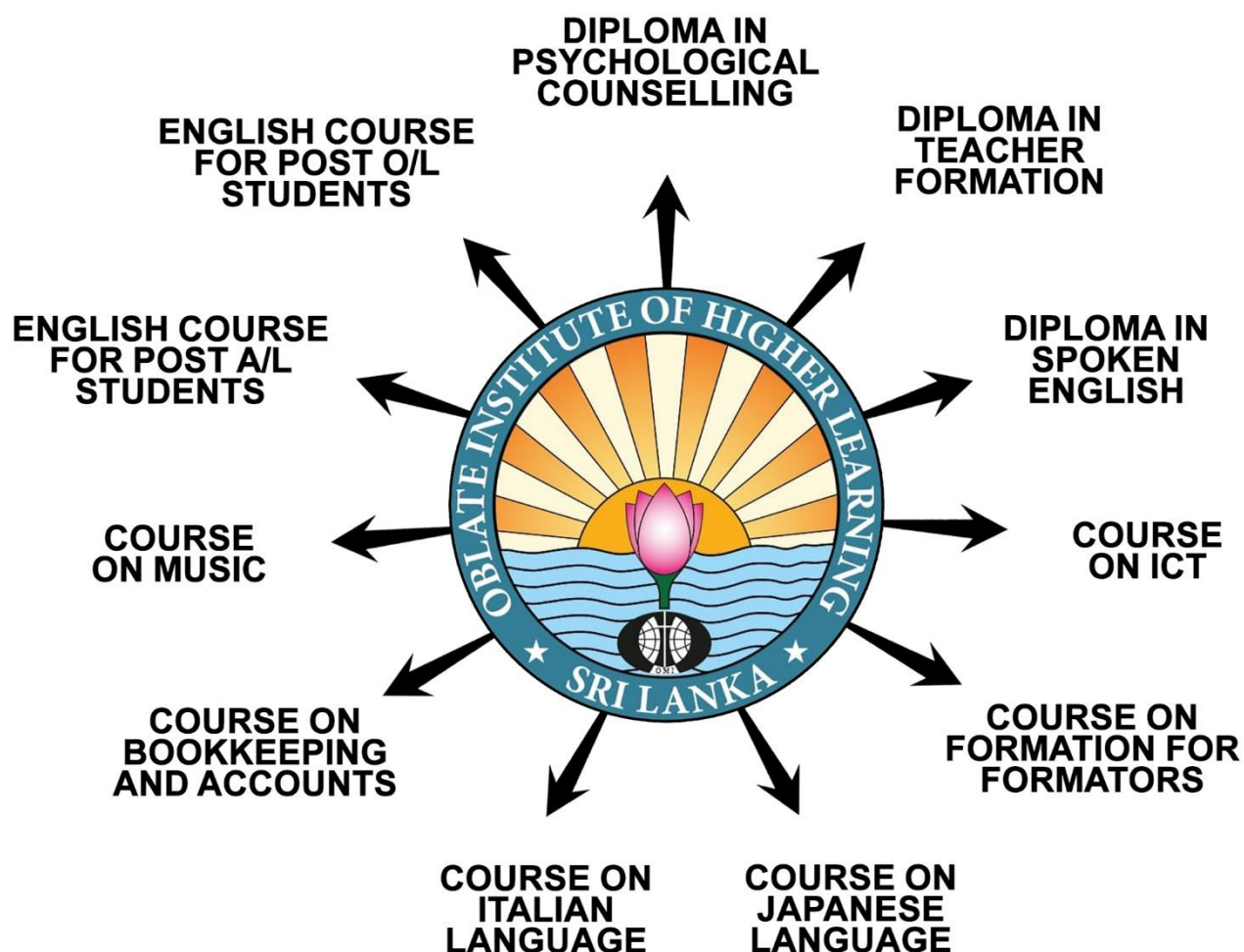
We also thank the academic staff, Rev. Fathers, Sisters, and Provincials who have placed their trust in us by sending their members to pursue our courses. Your confidence in our mission is deeply valued. A special note of thanks goes to our beloved parents, whose vibrant support has empowered us to reach heights beyond imagination.

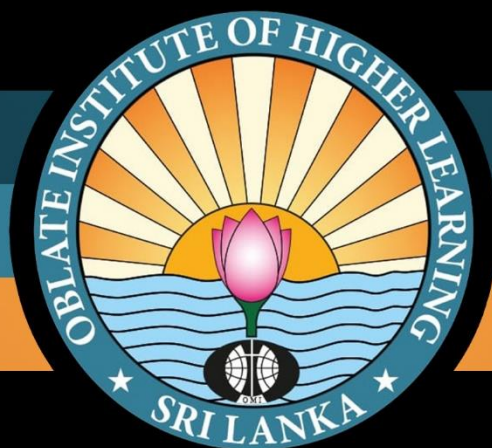
To our students, well-wishers, and benefactors, thank you for your dedication, generosity, and continued stewardship. Your presence here today reflects your enduring love and commitment to this institute.

May God bless each of you abundantly.

Rev. Fr. Charuka Namal OMI, Academic Secretary of OIHL.

# COURSES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026





## WHO WE ARE ?

We are an institute of higher learning, promoting humanitarian values, knowledge and skills to serve humanity in a creative way thereby responding to contemporary needs in the Sri Lankan church and in the secular society.

### **POSTAL ADDRESS:**

Oblate Institute of Higher Learning  
Dev Arana, Paththanduwana,  
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Minuwangoda,  
Sri Lanka.

### **WEB:**

[www.oihl.org](http://www.oihl.org)

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*" To be the heart of innovative learning to serve humanity... "*

~ OUR VISION ~