Koh Boon Hwee gives NTU $2.5m

By JAMIE LEE

[SINGAPORE] Koh Boon Hwee, chairman of Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) board of trustees and DBS Group, has donated $2.5 million to the university in support of NTU’s efforts to honour teachers who have inspired their top graduates.

Mr Koh’s donation, added with another $2.5 million from the government as part of its dollar-for-dollar matching, will create a $5 million endowment fund that will support the University Scholars Award, NTU said yesterday.

Launched in 2007, the award – which has been renamed the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award – is given to about 20 graduates from NTU each year.

These students – both from Singapore and abroad – represent the top one per cent of the graduating cohort and come from the various schools in NTU.

Besides having outstanding academic results, they display strong leadership abilities and the potential to contribute to society.

Each student, who will receive a gold medal and a certificate, will nominate a teacher from his or her former junior college, polytechnic or similar educational institution who had been an inspiration.

The teacher will have a single cash grant of $5,000 set up in his or her name, and can pick a student whom he or she is currently teaching to receive this $5,000 grant from NTU when the student is admitted into the university.

The teacher can make this nomination within three years of having the cash grant set up in his or her name, an NTU spokesman told BT.

Graduates who receive the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award will also nominate a university faculty member who has been an inspiration. Both the nominated faculty member and teacher will receive a certificate of honour.

Mr Koh said in yesterday’s press statement: “This award recognises outstanding graduating students, but more importantly, it recognises and honours the teachers and faculty members who made an impact in their success.

“It passes on the legacy; the award allows for a tangible benefit to be passed by the teacher being honoured to a future generation of students.”