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BIL. 1, JANUARY-MAY, 2024

INNOVATIVE EXCELLENCE: FACULTY OF COMPUTING SHINES AT CITREX 2024

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Voices of Experience

CRAFTING YOUR PROFESSORIAL IDENTITY: LESSONS FROM A LECTURER'S JOURNEY
by Professor Ts Dr Mazlina Abdul Majid

Crafting your professorial identity in academia involves cultivating roles, values, beliefs, and behaviors that define your professional persona. This identity is crucial for demonstrating quality excellence in teaching, research, leadership, mentoring, and community engagement, which can lead to various forms of recognition. To excel in academia, it's essential to understand institution-specific requirements emphasizing:

Teaching Excellence: Stay updated with trends, use technology, and innovate teaching methods to enhance the learning experience.

Research Prowess: Publish consistently across various types of publications, from high impact peer-reviewed journals, book chapter to conference proceedings, secure national and international grants. Specialize in specific domains to enhance scholarly impact.
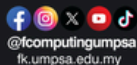
In this section, I share my experiences over 23 years as an academician, offering insights to colleagues aspiring to establish a strong professorial identity and attain the titles of Associate Professor or Professor.

Leadership: Aspiring to leadership roles within your institution or taking on leadership challenges such as leading academic activities demonstrates maturity, resilience, and the ability to establish strong relationships based on respect and trust.

Mentoring: Effective mentoring involves fostering good engagement with postgraduate students, actively seeking financial support through grant application to fund their studies, regularly discussing publication strategies to motivate them to publish in reputable journals, and focusing on timelines to ensure they graduate on schedule.

Recognition and Collaboration: Seeking national or international recognition through speaking engagements, academic and research visits, examining roles, and publications enhances your academic profile. Establishing yourself as an advisor, consultant, or referral expert in your field provides opportunities to contribute your expertise beyond academia, influencing policies and practices in various organizations.

Community Engagement and Service: Actively participating in community service, whether through NGOs or professional associations, demonstrates your commitment to societal impact.

Visibility and Impact: Use social media and networks to disseminate research and achievements, enhancing influence and recognition.

Building this identity requires effort, yearly planning, goal setting, embracing challenges, and seizing opportunities. Patience, loyalty to values, and adaptability sustain long-term success. Commit to these principles to navigate academia effectively and shape a meaningful career.

Keep pursuing your dream of becoming a professor. Your dedication to knowledge and your passion for your field will guide you on this journey. Remember, perseverance is key—never give up. With persistence and continuous learning, you will carve out your path and make a lasting impact in academia.

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