

MEDIA RELEASE

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Students unearth the science of farming

THE summer holidays have taken a back seat for a group of eager science students from across the state.

Almost 40 senior school students have put their holidays on hold for a chance to work alongside science industry mentors as part of the annual Primary Industry Placement Scholarship Program.

The program provides an opportunity for tertiary-bound science students to experience first-hand their chosen career paths.

“There is nothing like experiential learning to engage students, it really helps to put their learning in context,” UTAS School of Agricultural Science education officer and program co-ordinator Paul O’Halloran said.

“The students are not only getting on-the-job experience, but being exposed to the huge range of career opportunities available.”

As part of the placement, students are aligned with an industry closest to their choice, gaining an invaluable insight into research and applying practical skills.

About 10 primary industries around Tasmania are participating in this year’s placement program which has been operating since 1999.

It aims to meet a significant skills need in the primary industries sector with results speaking for themselves.

“One of this year’s industry mentors, who is now working at Simplot in the North West of Tasmania, actually attended the program,” Mr O’Halloran said.

The program includes a week-long residential camp, held in December, and concludes with a reporting back session via video conference on Thursday, January 31.

The program is organised and funded in a partnership between the UTAS School of Agricultural Science and the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC).

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