

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Aspirations Matter 2016: Symposium to showcase State's educational aspirations efforts

Around 100 people from across the state's education sector will attend the third annual Aspirations Matter symposium at the University of Tasmania today, to showcase the state's educational aspiration work and consider its impact.

Aspirations Matter has been organised by the University's Student Aspiration Raising Community of Practice (StARCoP). It will feature a range of presentations and discussions covering programs and initiatives from across the University and the state.

Professor Elaine Stratford, Director of the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, will deliver one of the keynote addresses, outlining the Centre's work in research, workforce change, and novel aspiration programs for young people across the state.

Speakers will also address challenges such as recruiting the next generation of rural doctors, parental engagement in school communities and boosting female participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.

University of Tasmania Access and Social Inclusion lecturer and symposium coordinator Dr Robin Barnes said the event was an opportunity to discuss current initiatives and look at their impact on educational aspirations.

"It's a great way to find out what's happening in the community, and to ensure that we are taking a coordinated approach to raising educational aspirations in Tasmania," she said.

- The full program is available online at <http://www.utas.edu.au/student-aspiration-raising-community-of-practice/aspirations-matter>

Launched in February 2015, the Peter Underwood Centre is a partnership between the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian State Government in association with the Office of the Governor of Tasmania.

**Information released by:**

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