

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Further national recognition for teaching and learning excellence at UTAS

For the second time in as many weeks the University of Tasmania has been recognised nationally for excellence in learning and teaching.

The Minister for Higher Education and Skills, Sharon Bird, announced today **(Friday 7 June 2013)** that the University would receive two grants totalling \$253,000 from the Office of Learning and Teaching, part of a national funding round aimed at helping change the way universities teach.

Last week the University of Tasmania was awarded two of seven Federal Government Australian Maths and Science Partnership Program grants worth just over \$1 million.

Today's major grant, of \$219,000, was awarded to a team led by Dr Tina Acuna, a Senior Lecturer in Crop Science with the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and the School of Agricultural Science, for a project to develop a national academic standards statement for agriculture. The University of Tasmania is the lead institution in this project, which involves three other universities.

Seed funding of \$34,000 has been awarded to Dr Yuliya Karpievitch from the School of Physics and Mathematics for the redesign of the introductory statistics classroom to improve student experience and material retention.

The University of Tasmania is a partner in three other collaborative projects to receive funding. They are devoted variously to benchmarking the attainment of clinical competencies in Australian medical schools; the virtual design workshop - an online adaptive resource for engineering students; and processes and platform for e-exams in supervised bring-your-own-device environments.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Learning), Professor David Sadler, said today: "Twice in the last fortnight our status as the number-one university for teaching excellence has been reaffirmed with Federal Government funding successes.

"It builds on our national recognition in 2012, when the University of Tasmania received more Office of Learning and Teaching awards than any other Australian university."

The Director of TIA, Prof Holger Meinke, said of the national academic standards statement funding: “I am immensely proud of everyone involved in making this happen. This funding reinforces TIA as a place of learning and teaching excellence, and recognises the importance of academic rigour in the agricultural curriculum.”

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