

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Federal funds help improve access to engineering pathways

A consortium of regional higher education and vocational education and training providers has received federal funding to create a learning platform that provides better access to engineering pathways.

The University of Tasmania in partnership with the University of Southern Queensland, Deakin University, Geraldton Universities Centre, TAFE SA and TasTAFE, has received a \$324,000 grant from the Federal Government's Office of Learning and Teaching under the Innovation and Development program.

The project, titled "Engineering pathways for regional Australia: viable learning platforms built by knowledge partnering" is expected to be completed in 2016.

University of Tasmania Pro-Vice Chancellor (Regional Development) Professor Janelle Allison said the project aimed to provide access to engineering pathways and expand curriculum choice and coverage in regional areas.

"Our chief goal is to foster participation, engagement and retention in education by up-skilling the engineering workforce and improving the productivity of resource and manufacturing economies," Professor Allison said.

"This project will develop shared curriculum, a joint portal, blended learning and multi-model delivery. By partnering, regional campuses can reconfigure resources and reduce costs, resulting in broader access, coverage and choice in regional areas.

"It will reduce individual campus delivery costs and cross-institutional barriers and improve the availability of engineers and associated para-professionals."

Representatives from the partner institutions will meet for a two-day workshop to start the project on Monday, 14 and Tuesday 15 April

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