

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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UTAS teaching and engagement excellence recognised with national grants

The University of Tasmania has been awarded two of seven Federal Government Australian Maths and Science Partnership Program (AMSPP) grants, making UTAS the only in Australia to secure two lead grants.

The AMSPP grants are designed to support student engagement and science courses at universities and schools through innovative partnerships, increasing the number of students studying maths and science to year 12.

The UTAS programs awarded grants are:

\$378,800: Evaluating and selecting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) resources: capacity building for teachers in regional and rural schools. The STEM outreach program offers hands-on science activities for students which align with the science and maths curriculum.

\$642,000: Maximising Student and Teaching Engagement with Science Professionals to Address the Shortage of Qualified Science Professionals. This project is run through UTAS' Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE).

In 2012, UTAS received more Australian Government Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) awards than any other Australian university, cementing its position as the country's number one university for teaching excellence.

UTAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education), Professor David Sadler, said the grants were a welcome acknowledgment of the university's commitment to quality teaching.

"As the only university in Tasmania, we take our role in the community very seriously- we feel it is important to work with local schools, students and teachers to develop and increase the level of interest in studying maths and science to college and beyond.

"These grants, and our recent success with OLT funding, further confirm our leadership in teaching and learning, as well as in world-class research.

“We are very pleased our efforts have been recognised in this way and look forward to continuing to work with schools to engage students in fun and informative science and maths education activities.”

Dean of the UTAS Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology, Professor Margaret Britz, said she was proud the faculty’s programs had been recognised with the AMSPP grants.

“It is important to note that our PICSE project supports the development of teachers, as well as students, providing enrichment for all levels of the educational system,” said Prof Britz.

Prof Britz said PICSE is particularly important for supporting students into educational programs which support the rural sector and the agricultural industries.

“STEM is an excellent example of a program working in sync with the immediate educational needs of students by providing activities which align with the current sciences and maths curriculum.

“We are very pleased these key programs are being supported by these grants.”

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