

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2013

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Tassie-first program brings English teachers together

A new UTAS project is bringing together educators at both university and senior secondary levels to focus on the teaching of English in Tasmania.

Dr Lisa Fletcher, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of first-year English at UTAS, was awarded a Teaching Development Grant for the creation of the project, called: Teaching of English in Tasmania Community of Practice (TETCoP).

As part of TETCoP, there will be a Hobart workshop for invited educators, titled: “Teaching English in Tasmania: An Emerging Conversation about the Transition.”

Dr Fletcher said the TETCoP project and workshop aim to create a “grassroots community of practice” in Tasmania by bringing together English teachers.

“The forum will create discussion, build networks and consider the creation of new initiatives to improve the teaching of English and pathways to further study for students,” Dr Fletcher said.

The first phase of the project saw Dr Fletcher and UTAS English colleague Dr Robert Clarke visit schools around the state to hold discussions with teachers and invite them to join the project.

Dr Fletcher said this level of direct interaction between university and senior secondary teachers was rare in Australia and a first for Tasmania.

“We are aiming to find out what exactly university English lecturers and secondary English teachers have in common.”

Dr Fletcher said the project will also investigate whether assessment tasks at university level build logically on the skills students are taught during TCE.

“For example, do teachers in both sectors use the same terms and concepts, or do students at a University level feel they are starting over?” Dr Fletcher said.

“We also want to know if teachers at both levels have the same priorities for teaching English or if they differ, and how.”

“We will also consider how changes in the secondary sector impact on the development of the discipline at the tertiary level,” Dr Fletcher said.

“TETCoP hopes to initiate a conversation that will be of value to everyone involved- in 2013 and into the future.”

Media opportunity: The workshop will take place on Tuesday 10 December (12.30-4pm) on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 2691 Mob. 0447 537 375

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au