

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Raising our educational aspirations

The second annual Aspirations Matter symposium will be held on Friday (**26 June**), continuing the University of Tasmania's focus on raising educational aspirations, standards and attainment in the state.

Aspirations Matter 2015 is taking place in Launceston in a year that has seen significant resources, expertise and attention brought to bear on the issue of education in Tasmania.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) Professor Sue Kilpatrick said the symposium was a chance to showcase and workshop initiatives run through the University and elsewhere that aim to reach out to communities and raise student aspirations.

"Our first Aspirations Matter was a great success last year, shining the spotlight on the good work that many in the University do in this area," Professor Kilpatrick.

"We know how transformative education can be for families and communities. That is why it has been particularly exciting to see how education has taken centre stage in the Tasmanian conversation in this, the University's 125th year."

Earlier this year, the University of Tasmania announced the Peter Underwood Centre for Educational Attainment, developed in partnership with the State Government. A number of forums have focused on education as did the successful Hothouse experiment, which led into Dark Mofo. Next month will see many of the world's best educational minds arrive in Tasmania for a major symposium: *The Transformative Nature of Education: Underpinning social and economic transformations*.

"Aspirations Matter is another opportunity to continue that conversation here in Launceston."

Organised by the University's Student Aspiration Raising Community of Practice and the Centre for University Pathways and Partnerships, the symposium will run from 10am to 5.30pm at the School of Architecture and Design in Inveresk.

The keynote addresses will be delivered by the Faculty of Education's Professor Kim Beswick and well known educator and Chair of the Tasmanian Early Years Foundation Elizabeth Daly OAM. They will join in a panel discussion at 3pm. The panel will also feature Dr Colin Jones, Senior Lecturer in Entrepreneurship at the University, Damian Collins from Devonport's Junction HUB and Professor Maggie Walters, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Aboriginal Research and Leadership) at the University.

A number of workshops throughout the day will focus on issues such as how to engage with adults in rural and regional areas and support a reengagement with education and the youth perspective of raising aspirations.

For more information and the full program, visit <http://www.utas.edu.au/aspirations-matter>

Information released by:

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