

**Wednesday 16 August 2017**

## **ASG Monash University mentoring program puts teaching into perspective**

Award winning ASG teachers will embark on a week-long mentoring program with 700 first year pre-service teachers at Monash University. This year this program is also open to all Education students interested in learning from the teachers.

The teacher mentors, selected by their communities for being outstanding and inspirational educators in the annual ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA), will share 'real classroom experiences' with the Monash University education students.

Now in its third year, the ASG Monash University mentoring program will be hands-on with the students participating in workshops and interactive lectures as the mentors share their expertise and insights to assist and support the development of these young aspiring educators.

The mentoring program, which starts next Monday (21 August), will take place in the Clayton and Peninsula campuses and includes the following teachers:

**Karen Anderson** (Early Childhood) - Balnarring Pre-School, Balnarring, VIC

**Christian Williams** (Primary) - St Michael's Primary School, Ashburton, VIC

**Keith Fennell** (Secondary) - Airds High School, Airds, NSW

**Guy Stapleton** (Secondary) - Melville Senior High School, Melville, WA

**Evan Polymeneas** (Secondary) - Salisbury High School, Salisbury North, SA

**Jane Brooks** (Secondary) - New Town High School, New Town, TAS

**Drew Roberts** (Secondary) - Emmanuel Christian College, Rokeby, TAS

Associate Professor Sivanes Phillipson of Monash University's Faculty of Education says the mentoring program gives students a real classroom experience to enhance their learning by having access to ASG NEiTA recipients who collectively teach across entire curriculum.

"When we announced the ASG NEiTA teachers who are participating, there was so much excitement because these are leading teachers in STEM, robotics, physical education, inclusive education and humanities. What we've seen in schools and education policy is that there is a real push for STEM subjects like coding which is already being introduced into the early years of primary school. It's equally as important that education students are introduced to all learning areas and are shown how to apply the curriculum through innovative and creative pedagogy."

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says this initiative also gives education students a holistic experience of teaching and a taste of relationship building with students, parents and the school community.

"The [ASG-ACE Teachers Report Card](#) recently revealed that about one in five teachers thought about leaving the profession in the last three months. The ASG NEiTA mentors are some of the best teachers in the country and they are so eager to pass on their passion for education, but teaching can be stressful and demanding even for the best of them.

"For example, the report found that while 96 per cent of teachers find teaching rewarding, almost half of them feel stressed 'most of the time' or 'fairly often'. In addition, 68 per cent of teachers feel their work-life balance is less balanced than they would like or not balanced at all, and while 59 per cent of teachers think the opportunity to get promoted is very important, 55 per cent feel it rarely happens.

"So by connecting teachers with students as early as possible, we hope to present a bird's eye view of the teaching profession to ensure graduates are as best prepared and continue to stay motivated throughout their careers as just one of many solutions to ensure the best and most passionate teachers are retained," said Mr Velegrinis.

#### **Media contact:**

For further information or to arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis, Associate Professor Sivanes Phillipson or any of the teachers please contact:

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#### **Editor's notes:**

*The ASG teacher mentoring program is a collaboration with Monash University's Faculty of Education to link up the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards recipients with Monash University student teachers. The program takes place over one week where students get to engage with practicing teachers through face-to-face forums, Q&A sessions, and workshops.*

*ASG is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children and individuals. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.*

*ASG NEiTA started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 34,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1050 teachers receiving more than \$940,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.*

For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au)