

**Monday 18 April, 2016**

## **ASG mentoring program gives Monash Education students a taste of the classroom**

More than 700 first year education students at will get a taste of the classroom through the ASG NEiTA and Monash University mentoring program.

Now in its second year, the pre-service teachers will learn about real life teaching experiences and tap into the wisdom of current and former ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (NEiTA) recipients, who represent some of the best teachers in Australia.

The mentoring program, between ASG and the Faculty of Education at Monash University is an interactive week where students get to engage with practicing teachers through face-to-face forums, Q&A sessions, workshops and online tutorials.

Starting from today the ASG NEiTA mentors who will attend the Clayton, Berwick and Peninsula campuses in semester one are:

Rhada Babicci (Early Childhood) Emmerick Street Community Preschool, NSW

Steven Cameron (Early Childhood) Barbara Kiker Memorial Kindergarten, SA

Michael Harris (Primary) Edge Hill State School, QLD

Drew Roberts (Secondary) Emmanuel Christian School, TAS

Alan Westbury (Secondary) St Philip's Christian College, NSW

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says this initiative continues to recognise the ASG NEiTA recipients for their dedication to the teaching profession and they work they do in communities across the country.

"We are really excited about continuing the conversations and the relationships we have built with our ASG NEiTA recipients. Supporting children's education is ASG's core mission and it also aligns with what our mentor teachers put into action each and every day. They represent the epitome of dedicated teachers who genuinely care about the educational success and wellbeing of their students and we hope that through this mentoring program they can inspire excellent teaching in the next generation of teaching graduates.

"Hopefully many students will engage, throwing questions at the mentors as they try to learn and link theory to practice, but for some it will be a real eye opener as they question whether teaching is really for them for not. Our ASG NEiTA mentors from last year told us that they didn't sugar coat anything because teaching is demanding and exhausting and they wanted to give the students as true a picture as possible. Our mission is to hopefully reverse the trend of teaching graduates leaving the profession so early on in their careers."

NEiTA Mentoring Programs Leader for semester one, Dr Maria Gindidis from Monash University says the students can expect a dynamic and engaging week long program.

"The feedback which we received from the first year cohort of students last year was really encouraging, so we're hoping to build on that foundation and really give the students a platform where they can learn about effective teaching strategies and discuss professional ethics with practicing teachers who they will hopefully see as mentors and inspire them to the best teachers they can be.

"This year the ASG NEiTA and Monash Education mentoring program will run across both semesters and that will help give the students enough time to absorb what they learn and discuss in the workshops and see the links between theory and a real life classroom setting when they start their teaching placements. We also hope the ASG NEiTA teachers will be able to foster a passion for education by talking about their awards and how they motivate students' learning."

Ends.

**Media contact:**

For further information or to arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis, Dr Maria Gindidis or any of the teachers please contact:

Nicole Gundi  
Media and Communications Adviser  
(03) 9276 7520 / 0448 167 578  
[publicrelations@asg.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@asg.com.au)

**Editor's notes:**

*ASG is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.3 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au).*

*ASG NEiTA started in 1994 in Australia and 1996 in New Zealand. Since inception, more than 30,000 teachers have been nominated by the community in the two countries, with more than 1000 teachers receiving more than \$800,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.*

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