

Friday 10 March 2017

Creating inclusive learning culture wins national teaching award

A teacher who strives to create a culture of significant student learning for young people with physical, mental and social needs will receive a national award at the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (ASG NEiTA) today at a ceremony in Melbourne.

Joan Ocampo from Henbury School (Wanguri) is the only Northern Territory recipient and will join 12 other outstanding educators from across Australia in receiving the top awards. She will receive the Disability Inclusion Grant.

Selected from more than 1350 nominations in 2016, the 13 national award recipients will be honoured for their inspiring and innovative contribution to teaching.

Ms Ocampo was nominated by a community member for her massive efforts and the inspirational impact she has, earning the admiration and respect from her colleagues, parents and the community.

"Her holistic approach to learning, exceptional pedagogical skills and interpersonal skills created a huge impact to her students learning, improvement of professional practice to her colleagues and collaborative impact to the school community in a local, national and global scale," writes the community member.

The specialist teacher who describes herself as jubilant, with an infectious love of learning says she is committed to the success of students of all abilities, working with a team and engaging the community to streamline complex ideas into simple, more practical and relevant life applications.

"My ability to reach out to students, parents and colleagues earned their trust that builds rapport, credibility and positivity. Through hard work, patience and trust I build relationships and encourage people to work together, share knowledge and take an active role to upskill student performance and uplift school morale."

Ms Ocampo implemented the *Kids Teaching Kids Program*, an education model that uses local environment issues as a theme for learning. Students gather together to educate their mainstream peers through student led workshops and various interactive activities.

ASG NEiTA Chairman Allen Blewitt says Ms Ocampo's strategy is reinforcing to ensure students feel valued and are not marginalised, contributing to productive and effective learning.



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“Through group work and hands-on learning this creates active learners and converts their fears and doubts into increased confidence and assurance that they are capable of sharing their knowledge and sending a message of environmental sustainability throughout the community. These opportunities also broaden their academic and interpersonal skills through peer teaching and leadership.”

Parents, grandparents, secondary student councils, school boards, councils, parent associations, committees of management and community organisations throughout Australia nominated these inspirational recipients.

Chief Executive Officer of ASG NEiTA, John Velegrinis says the ASG NEiTA recipients have all been recognised by their local communities for making a genuine difference to education and for supporting the educational aspirations families have for their children.

“I congratulate Ms Ocampo along with the other ASG NEiTA recipients. These outstanding teachers and educators have earned the respect of their communities through their hard work, building trusting relationships and ensuring their love for education gets passed on to their students, creating a culture of lifelong learning.

Teachers have an enormous responsibility and our ASG NEiTA recipients take on this responsibility with humility, striving to always be accountable for their actions, working beyond what is expected of them and expecting nothing in return. Their joy comes from the challenge of ensuring their students flourish academically and socially, giving students choices and offering holistic solutions. This is why ASG NEiTA has thrived for the last 22 years. The community thanks and applauds you for your contribution to teaching the next generation of young Australians.”

The national awards are divided into four categories: leadership and development, innovation, community engagement and introducing, early career teacher. For more information on the 13 national awardees, including profiles go to: <http://www.asg.com.au/neita>

Eleven national award recipients will receive \$5000 professional development grants with one teacher getting the incredible opportunity to go to Space Camp in the U.S. One teacher is also awarded a \$2000 Disability Inclusion Grant.

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Editor's notes:

The Australian Scholarships Group (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 530,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2.5 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members.

The ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (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 about \$940,000 in professional development grants, prizes and endowments.

For more information visit: www.asg.com.au



The NEiTA Foundation is proudly supported and administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited ABN 21 087 648 879, a registered member owned organisation. Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166
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