

# 2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## National Award Recipient



### Brooke Haendel

All Saints' College, Bull Creek, Western Australia

A sentence provided by a student exemplifies the educational philosophy of Brooke Haendel: 'You always believe in the potential of your students and you push them so they can reach their full potential, thank you for believing in me even when I didn't'.

A Health and Physical Education teacher at All Saints' College (ASC) in Bull Creek, Western Australia, Brooke was inspired to devote her professional life to education by teachers who made others feel valued and important, and were intrinsically motivated, thoughtful and open about their constant learning.

Brooke is a scholar and innovator—a rare combination. She designed and implemented the ASC Health Education program framed by educational philosophies such as Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, Kohlberg's Stages of Moral Development and Bandura's Social Learning Theory. Her achievements saw her appointed post-graduate unit coordinator and Adjunct Lecturer at The University of Western Australia (2011).

Brooke's holistic approach is exemplified by the ASC 'Binge Drinking Virtual Expo—Year 9: Drug Education Unit' where students produce anti-substance abuse campaigns. They allocate themselves to various groups based on their interests and expertise such as advertising, publications, surveys and research. The Expo requires students to develop critical health literacy skills that cultivate resilience and harm reduction. Brooke has also played a key role in the design and implementation of the ASC Auto Shop where Year 10 students learn about the challenges of road safety and vehicle maintenance.

As the Head of Forrest House, Brooke describes her educational mission as encouraging 'the individual to value self-worth; to realise their unique qualities and in doing so to respect and admire others'.

Brooke's National Award is for Innovation.

POSITION	OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES	CATEGORY	SUBJECTS/LEVEL TAUGHT	YEARS TEACHING
Teacher	Health coordinator, Head of House	Secondary	Health Education and Physical Education Studies	11
YEARS AT THIS SCHOOL/CENTRE	SCHOOL TYPE	NOMINATED BY	TOWN/SUBURB	STATE AND POSTCODE
9	Independent	Parent	Bull Creek	WA, 6149

#### CONTACT DETAILS:

Teacher: Brooke Haendel  
Phone: 08 9313 9333

Principal/Director: Belinda Provis

Email: brooke.haendel@allsaints.wa.edu.au

NEITA is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited  
ABN 21 087 648 879 Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166

For further information, please contact:  
Nicole Gundi, Public Relations, Australian Scholarships Group  
Phone: 03 9276 7520 Mobile: 0448 167 578 Fax: 03 9276 7798  
Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au asg.com.au/neita



# 2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

## National Award Recipient

### Brooke Haendel

#### What is the most challenging aspect of being a teacher?

John Dewey once said that, "if we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow". As difficult as it is to maintain a differentiated approach, to access higher order learning outcomes for all students, it is a challenge that I feel one must make a daily focus. Implementing a differentiated approach is not easy; however, these empowering and inclusive techniques further enhance student's interest and learning. The challenge, according to Tomlinson (1999), is "to reach out effectively to students who span the spectrum of learning readiness, personal interest, culturally shaped ways of seeing and speaking of the world, and experiences in that world". In doing so I provide a spectrum of teaching strategies, opportunities to selectively engage with a range of content, provide guidance reflective of needs, and allow choice of the assessment task that permits students to display their learning. In electing to meet this challenge, student's academic learning time is maximised.

#### There is a lot of discussion at the moment around improving teacher training and teacher quality. What are your thoughts around this? Do you think teacher training and teacher quality needs to be improved in Australia?

I am an Adjunct Lecturer and Unit Coordinator in Health and Physical Education at The University of Western Australia and have been directly involved in teacher training for five years. Teacher training can be improved and this is best achieved by virtue of evolution, to meet the changing landscape that is the art and science of education. Whilst the scholarship of 'teaching expertise' has a long history, the changing needs and readiness of students, the curriculum and the expectations of society, demands that teachers and the pedagogy employed continuously evolve.

#### How do you think teacher training could be improved?

Consistent with the recent Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group Report (2014), I support the recommendation for an approach that further facilitates the integration of theory and practice during pre-service teacher training to allow for improvement in this area. Unfortunately, the disparity between pre-service teacher training and school-based feedback can be significant. Personal experience confirms that when a mentor teacher exemplifies and reinforces university teacher training, the practicum experience is not only optimised, but the relationship between mentor and mentee is solidified and both parties have the potential to flourish. However, when theory and practice is clearly disconnected, the outcomes impact, not only the staff, but the students in their care.

#### What advice would you give a new graduate?

You are a highly trained professional; dress, talk, write, teach, and think like one. Don't necessarily act like or compare yourself with the existing staff in a new working environment, they may be in a very different stage of their career. Teaching is a highly rewarding, yet demanding profession, be prepared, flexible, reflective and willing to try new things. Always ask yourself; what will achieve the best outcomes for my students? What will have a lasting impression? How will I be better tomorrow? Listening is a gift, give generously.

#### If there was one aspect of teaching you would like changed, what would it be?

I would like to see support for the experienced teacher to continue on a career pathway that allows for further development and satisfaction. Quality of work life studies have shown experienced teachers choose to leave the profession due to non-use of expertise, lack of opportunities to participate in educational decision making and personal and limited professional development and respect. Through research, it is clear that mentoring is a positive way to enhance and possibly prolong the teaching journey. In a formalised setting where relatively new teachers are linked with a lead teacher, the experienced teacher is able to support through coaching, and engaging in reflective listening and counselling, that is mentoring. When undertaken comprehensively, formalised professional relationships provide opportunity for self-discovery, the development of emotional intelligence, psychological and career profiling and management. Importantly, this process facilitates professional respect and the holistic development of all educators.

---

NEITA is administered by the Australian Scholarships Group Friendly Society Limited  
ABN 21 087 648 879 Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166

For further information, please contact:  
Nicole Gundi, Public Relations, Australian Scholarships Group  
Phone: 03 9276 7520 Mobile: 0448 167 578 Fax: 03 9276 7798  
Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au asg.com.au/neita



National Excellence  
in Teaching Awards