

UC SCHOOLS UPDATE

What's been happening?

Some Background



Formal launch of UC Schools...

March 22nd 2011 saw the formal launch of UC Schools, with the new school names being officially recognised. The day was an exciting one for the school communities and for the University of Canberra.

A great deal of work had taken place throughout 2010 to reach the point the partnership was ready to be formalised and as we progressed in 2011 we have built on the excellent foundations laid last year.

UC & DET Collaboration Steering Committee— who is on it and what is its role?

There are 8 representatives from both UC and DET on the Collaboration Steering Committee, including the two principals of the UC Schools. The

UC Vice Chancellor Professor Stephen Parker co-chairs the meetings, which are held 4 times a year, with ETD's Deputy Director-General, Diane Joseph. The Belconnen School Network Leader Linda Baird is a member of the committee, as is the Dean of the UC Faculty of Education Professor Geoff Riordan, the Director of the UC inSPIRE Centre Professor Rob Fitzgerald and the Director UC Schools Liaison Tracey Cappie-Wood.

The role of the committee is to identify, approve and support activities it considers reflect the outcomes and objectives of the partnership as outlined in the formal Deed. It determines the budget, and provides a mechanism for reporting, evaluation, reflection and further action. In 2011 the Committee met 5

times.

What are the Agreed Outcomes?

It's useful to understand the outcomes the partnership wants to achieve. These are:

- Improving pathways for students in territory high schools through to college and tertiary education;
- Providing opportunities for Territory teachers' professional development and engagement with academics of the university;
- Increasing the awareness and demand by Territory school students of alternatives and options in the tertiary sector;
- Supporting University-led research for the development of innovative practices

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- Providing inter-professional learning and practice opportunities for whole of service delivery in schools, which may include opportunities in the health, youth and justice studies, speech pathology and other professional areas;
- Attracting and sharing resources to benefit both parties.

So...numerous possibilities to progress!

Director UC Schools Liaison

The role of Director UC Schools Liaison was established at the beginning of 2011 and is **the coordination point for the interaction of the two UC Schools with the University**. Tracey Cappie-Wood was appointed to this role in February 2011 and works closely with the schools to progress the initiatives of the agreed Collaboration Program.

2011 KEY

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The establishment of a strong, positive relationship between the UC Schools and the University;
- All staff and students from UC Schools, approximately 900 people, were provided with **access to the full resources of UC Library, via a new UC Schools ID Card**.
- Strong, enthusiastic relationship between UC Library staff and teachers from both UC Schools – teachers are being guided by UC in their use and integration of appropriate resources into school curricula;
- **Academic Partnership program**, where UC faculties partner with the relevant faculties within the two schools, recently established with meetings underway.
- All UC Schools students have been provided with access to the **UC Academic Skills Centre programs**, with senior

students able to join any workshops offered to UC students. Schools greatly value this resource and the Academic Skills Centre has been a key partner in collaborative activities throughout 2011.

- UC Senior Secondary College, Lake Ginninderra students have been provided with access to **UC Clubs and Societies**.
- **UC Year 7 Literacy Mentoring program** collaboratively designed and implemented at UC High School, Kaleen daily for Semester 2 2011. Every high school student in Year 7 is paired with an undergraduate secondary pre-service teacher who acts as a literacy mentor. This project has been incorporated into a UC compulsory literacy unit, assuring long-term sustainability. In 2013 every student Years 7-10 will have a UC Literacy mentor.
- Two UC Mathematics senior lecturers provide 10 advanced UC High School, Kaleen students with a **Maths extension class**

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- **Two joint applications for funding totalling \$450,000 were submitted in 2011** to external funding bodies. One was not successful and no outcome has been advised to date relevant to the second proposal. This proposal seeks to enable a whole school dance program to be provided at UC High School Kaleen in 2012 by the ACT Dance company *Kulture Break*.

- **UC High School Kaleen Year 9 Futures Conference** hosted at UC mid-year with Dr Robyn Archer as the key speaker. Dr Archer has become almost a patron of UC High School, Kaleen and has agreed to include the whole school in the Canberra Centenary program should the funding for the 2012 Dance Program be successful.

- **UC Faculty of Arts & Design staff and students created a suite of possible designs** for the canteen area of UC Senior Secondary College, Lake

Ginninderra which have been provided to the school for consideration.

- UCSSC, Lake Ginninderra and UC College have agreed to develop a partnership to host **collaborative college-level study tours** for international students;

- Dr Chris Kilham (UC Faculty of Education) worked closely with the staff of UC High School, Kaleen to develop an appropriate **survey instrument** to assist with the analysis of the school's curriculum modification process for special needs students.

- UC ensured a strong presence at the Open Nights of both UC Schools, with willing support from relevant UC Centres.

- **A new UC Accelerate Program (UCAP) has been designed and agreed and is ready to be launched in November.** It will deliver, in 2012, two H Courses for advanced Year 11 and 12 students. The courses will be

in Accounting and Design Foundation. Agreement has been reached with relevant UC faculties for the development of another six H Courses in 2012, for delivery through ACAP in 2013.

- UC and UC Senior Secondary College, Lake G collaboratively designed and delivered a **College Preparation Program** for approximately 200 Year 10 students from Canberra High School and UC High School, Kaleen at both sites in 2011.

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