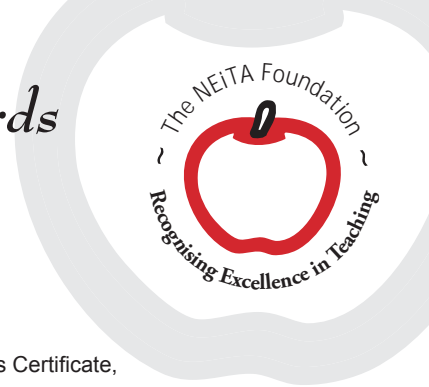


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Foster Adem

Master of Educational Studies, Bachelor of Education, Trained Technical Teachers Certificate,
Diploma of Art and Design Industrial Design
Trinity Grammar School, Kew, Victoria
Nominated by: School parent

Position: Design and Technology Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Independent • Town: Kew • Category: Secondary • State: VIC

Helping students find their niche in life

Foster Adem was appointed to Trinity Grammar in 2001 to research and prepare the then new *Design Technology Programs*. His enthusiasm and love of technology soon proved infectious with many students enrolling in the new programs. Foster's programs provide students with amazing new ways to explore different areas of their learning potential and several students have since found their niche in the world of technology and design when previously they had struggled with the traditionally academic curriculum.

Foster's imagination and enthusiasm has led many of his students to work outside normal school hours on their special projects. He has incorporated the background and instructional material of all the programs onto the school intranet so that students may access them at any time.

Insight

Q: In your opinion, what makes a good teacher?

A: A good teacher has a positive outlook on life, is non judgmental, and wants to be there, in front of, and with, the students.

Q: How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?

A: My enthusiasm maintains itself through a personal sense of satisfaction. This belief is ratified and acknowledged by the school community - knowing what you are doing is appreciated and valued.

Q: In hindsight, what do you wish your training provided you with more of?

A: The wisdom of age and life's experience.

Q: What is the most difficult aspect of teaching today?

A: The amount of pressure and demands on your time and headspace.

Q: What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?

A: Ensuring that colleagues and charges share the vision, workload, accountability and most importantly, the passion!

Q: How has teaching changed over the years?

A: The technological means of design and delivery has changed but the fundamental content and associated values have not.

Q: What is the single most important thing you, as a teacher, can do to connect with individual students?

A: Students identify quickly with some teachers and not others. This connectedness is made possible by valuing them as a person who has the potential to be who they want be.

Q: If you were the Minister for Education, Science and Training for a week, what would you try to change?

A: Get rid of the university imposed ENTER ranking in VCE. This method of tertiary course selection makes second-class citizens of those whose gifts are other than academic.

Q: What keeps you awake at night?

A: Mapping out strategies for dealing with a problem at school. This never really leaves you. It is your life!

Q: If your students could describe you in three words, what would they say?

A: Supportive, caring, and strict.

Contact Details:

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