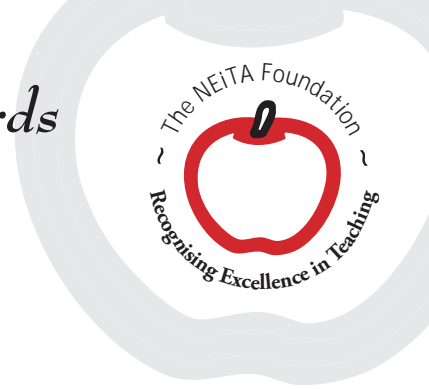


2007 National Excellence In Teaching Awards

State and Territory Teaching Excellence Award Recipient



Kerri Hilton

Diploma of Teaching, Bachelor of Education (Conversion Course)

St Norbert College, Queens Park, Western Australia

Nominated by: School parent

Position: Drama Teacher • Level taught: Secondary School • School type: Catholic • Town: Queens Park • Category: Secondary • State: WA

Fostering a lifelong love of drama

Kerri Hilton's drama classes at St Norbert College develop self-esteem and confidence in her students. Along the way, students learn trust and respect, as well as a love of the theatre that stays with them for life. Kerri has been involved with the student council for more than 20 years, coordinated the school socials for the past 17 years and continues to run school festivals, camps and presentation nights involving her students in every aspect of the events.

Many of Kerri's students have gone on to great success in the performing arts industry, becoming actors, sound technicians, backstage managers and singer-songwriters at both national and international level. Several of these past students directly credit Kerri as their mentor and a major contributor to their success.

Most recently, worried about the dropout rates for both first year university and TAFE students, Kerri has produced and distributed two self-funded DVDs to help students with the transition from secondary to post-secondary studies. Both DVDs are now used in schools Australia-wide.

Insight

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

A: Someone who has a passion for their subject, a love of children and a desire to see them succeed.

Q: *How do you maintain your enthusiasm for teaching?*

A: My students maintain my enthusiasm by their enthusiasm and delight in what they achieve in my class.

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

A: To be more prepared for the many extra duties outside of teaching that are required to be an effective teacher.

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

A: The expectations put on teachers by society that we can instantly cure the problems of the world in our classrooms.

Q: *What is your greatest challenge as a teacher?*

A: To do my very best for my students, both academically and in a personal fulfilment sense. I want my students to all believe in themselves.

Q: *How has teaching changed over the years?*

A: Teaching has become business-oriented and this has meant we are becoming more focussed on assessment and accountability rather than the student.

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

A: The single most important thing I can do to connect with my students is to earn their respect and trust.

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

A: The public's perception of the teaching community and the job we do everyday.

Q: *What keeps you awake at night?*

A: If I am awake at night it is usually to make sure I have everything ready for a school production.

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

A: Motivating, inspiring and caring.

Contact Details:

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