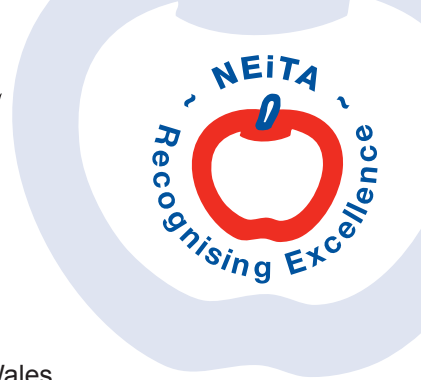


NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Awards

National Award Recipient



Bree Harvey

Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education
Callaghan College, Wallsend Campus, Wallsend, New South Wales
[now teaching at Hunter School of the Performing Arts, Broadmeadow]
Nominated by: College Council
National Award Category: Leadership

Position: Head Teacher (English) • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Years 7,8,9 & 10 • Years teaching: 14 years • Years at this school: 3 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Wallsend • State: New South Wales • Postcode: 2290 [Current school: Position: Deputy Principal]

How do you inspire your students?

Student engagement is the key to quality learning. My learning plans are individualised allowing students to achieve syllabus outcomes and develop skills for lifelong learning. I use action-learning processes to increase student engagement and social skills and I engage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in developing cultural capacity within the school.

An innovative and committed educator

Callaghan College's Wallsend Campus is part of a three-campus college situated in the Western corridor of Newcastle. As Head Teacher of English at Callaghan College, Bree Harvey works across the three campuses to promote English studies and support the transition of students from the junior to the senior campuses. Bree is a committed educational innovator and has developed programs in Aboriginal education, technology, literacy, middle years education, and gifted and talented education.

As Head of English and Relieving Deputy Principal, Bree has had a great effect on the Callaghan students who come from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. She has worked effectively to deliver programs that have improved Indigenous student outcomes in attendance, retention, academic performance (particularly literacy), and self-esteem. She has developed strong links with the Aboriginal Educational Consultative Group, as well as with Indigenous students' families.

Bree believes that using the latest technologies can help to motivate disengaged students. She has created Communication Central at Callaghan College, a 21st century learning environment where students use interactive whiteboards, digital video making, and music pods in their learning programs.

With parental input, Bree has developed personal learning plans for all Indigenous students. This helps students to feel a sense of ownership of their education, as well as providing realistic objectives that let the pupils feel a sense of achievement. Grades and student results have improved markedly across all year levels using these individually tailored learning plans.

Bree is recognised as a leader in middle years education. She has led many professional development sessions on the topic and was the team leader of the Tuggerah Lakes Learning Community Middle Years Action Research Project.

Gifted and talented education is another area of interest for Bree. As Head of English, she has provided many opportunities for gifted and talented students to reach their potential through participation in academic competitions, such as The Australasian Schools English Competition and external public speaking and debating competitions. She has also developed the annual Bohemian Poetry Cafe at the school where students read and perform their own poetry.

Bree is a committed educator who has demonstrated outstanding knowledge and skills in curriculum planning, assessment and teaching pedagogy. She continues to inspire her students, their families, and her fellow educators.

Bree is now Deputy Principal at the Hunter School of the Performing Arts, Broadmeadow.

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