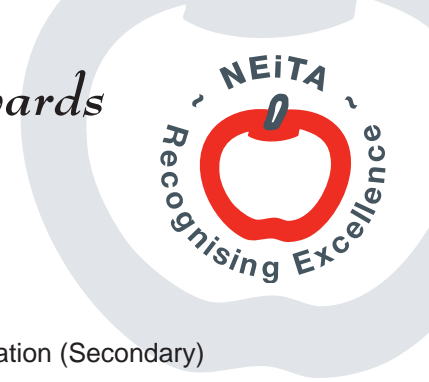


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Julie Boston

Bachelor of Science (Biochemistry), Graduate Diploma of Education (Secondary)
John Curtin College of the Arts, Fremantle, Western Australia
Nominated by: Parents and Citizens' Association

Position: Academic Excellence Program Coordinator • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Years 8-12 • Years teaching: 5.5 years • Years at this school: 4.5 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Fremantle • State: Western Australia • Postcode: 6160

Why teaching?

I have always been passionate about science. Qualifying as a biochemist, I began my career in liver cancer research. However, working with people, and the enjoyment I receive in galvanising a team, saw me pursue a career in Human Resources.

My family became my priority for a number of years and when I resumed my career, I wanted to utilise my passion for science and my love of working with people.

It was an easy decision to choose teaching. Introducing my students to the wonderful world of science is a pleasure and I feel it is a privilege to work with young people. It is for these reasons that I have been hooked on teaching from the start.

Helping realise the potential of gifted and talented students

As the Academic Excellence Program coordinator for John Curtin College of the Arts, Julie Boston has developed a deep understanding of the nature of gifted learners and of their social and emotional needs. Julie is a keen advocate of Multiple Intelligence theory, and actively seeks out a thorough knowledge of her students' abilities and learning styles. She uses this information to design highly differentiated curriculum that allows her to best meet her students' individual learning needs.

Julie enthusiastically creates flexible lessons that tap into her knowledge and understanding of the gifted and talented student. In 2008, she re-wrote the Year 8 Science curriculum for gifted and talented students. Her mentoring of other staff in her learning area enabled them to utilise her work which included detailed lesson plans and incorporated interactive whiteboards and ICT in the revision work across all topics. This enabled curriculum compaction and further met the accelerated learning needs of visually spatial, gifted and talented learners.

Julie has also organised students into a 'Roots and Shoots' club, which is part of a global network run by the Jane Goodall Institute. Its aim is environmental and humanitarian education, and inspiring youth to make a difference to their community. Students plan and implement ecological projects within the college community. Fundraising by this club has led to the adoption of orang-utans and has received such acclaim that Jane herself has heard of Julie's work in relation to saving the world environment and her efforts to engage students.

Her work has been so valued across the district that she has initiated programs for the primary school sector to promote science education for year 5 students. This has been highly acclaimed as an example of best practice in science education and has contributed to tremendous public relations and improved access to high quality science education in primary schools.

Julie has worked for the Curriculum Council of Western Australia to help develop science curriculum for all Western Australian schools. She has been asked to speak about her teaching practices at the University of Western Australia, and is regarded as a role model both by her students and other educators.

In the five years that Julie has been at John Curtin College of the Arts, her leadership is considered to be a significant factor in raising the school's ranking among all public schools in the state, from 77th to 18th, a staggering improvement in just five years.

Contact details:

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