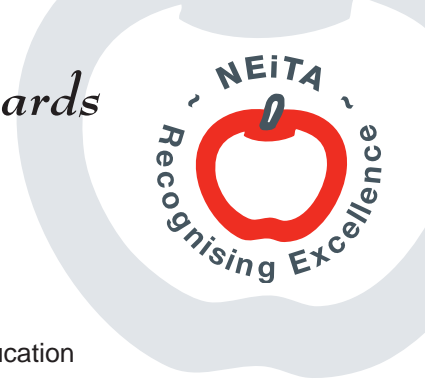


NEiTA 2009 ASG Inspirational Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient



Winsley Wighton

Bachelor of Science (Hons), Master of Science, Bachelor of Education
Penola High School, Penola, South Australia
Nominated by: School Council, parents

Position: Chemistry, Maths teacher • Category: Secondary • Level taught: Year 10-12 • Years teaching: 22 years • Years at this school/centre: 16 years • School type: Government • Town/Suburb: Penola • State: South Australia • Postcode: 5277

Why teaching?

I was fortunate to be raised in the shadow of dedicated teachers and to have been taught by inspired and inspiring teachers who fostered my love of learning and ideas, and to have had the opportunity to explore my passion for chemistry through research.

My enthusiasm and commitment are maintained by the students with whom I work, interaction with their families and my fellow teachers, and my on-going interest in my subject area. I love working with young people and seeing them blossom.

A dedicated teacher who will go the extra distance

Penola High School is a small rural school of approximately 130 students whose families are generally involved in agriculture, forestry or viticulture. As Penola High School's passionate chemistry teacher, Winsley Wighton has motivated and encouraged students to study chemistry and pursue tertiary scientific education. Her enthusiasm for chemistry is boundless and she manages to pass this on to her pupils. The students participate willingly in extra activities such as the annual Organic Chemistry Day where all pupils spend a Sunday carrying out organic chemistry projects.

Not only does Winsley serve the community of Penola, she also travels with her senior chemistry students on a weekly basis to Millicent High School, where she gives the combined class an extended lesson. This class also includes students from Kangaroo Inn Area School. To facilitate teaching over three sites, Winsley conducts a weekly interactive electronic lesson using Centra Symposium, an e-learning software package. This software allows for live, collaborative, online interaction between all the students and Winsley.

As well as chemistry, Winsley is passionate about raising literacy levels at Penola High School. She has participated in Stepping Out workshops that provide practical learning and teaching strategies to cater for the diversity of needs and abilities of adolescent learners.

Community involvement is very important to Winsley. She involves her students with local industries, particularly the famous Coonawarra wineries where students can see chemistry being put to use in the production of wine.

In travelling to other educational sites, Winsley literally goes the extra distance to share her passion for chemistry. It is a testament to her dedication that so many students from a small rural school have gone on to complete further scientific studies.

Contact details:

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