

NEiTA MEDIA RELEASE

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NEiTA and ASG Send Top Teacher and Students Over The Moon

Today NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Awards), supported by the Australian Scholarships Group (ASG), will present the NEiTA 2010 ASG International Space Camp Award to Ms Bree Harvey in recognition of her outstanding teaching excellence. Bree is formerly from Callaghan College, Wallsend Campus in New South Wales and is now teaching at Hunter School of Performing Arts, Broadmeadow, New South Wales.

Bree said she is honoured to represent Australia at the NASA-inspired 2010 International Space Camp for Educators, held in Alabama (USA). The opportunities she will enjoy through this award are limitless as she meets and interacts with some of the world's top educators.

"I am absolutely over the moon, I cannot wait to share the experience of Space Camp with other teachers from across the world.

"Exploring and realising possibilities is the reason I am a teacher, and this once in a lifetime experience will undoubtedly open up my eyes to many other possibilities, all of which I hope to use to inspire my students and my colleagues," Bree said.

Bree was nominated for the NEiTA 2009 ASG National Teaching Award because of her outstanding commitment to education and her innovative approach to inspiring her students. Bree is a committed educator who has demonstrated outstanding knowledge and skills in curriculum planning, assessment, and teaching pedagogy.

NEiTA is the only program in Australia to offer the International Space Camp prize—giving one outstanding teacher the opportunity to represent Australia at the NASA-inspired 2010 International Space Camp for Educators. The space camp is a one-week adventure where participants innovatively explore topics in science and technology covering space history, astronaut training and simulated missions.

Each year, the International Space Camp holds one special camp to encourage international cooperation. It is available by invitation only to teacher and student ambassadors from approximately 35 selected countries.

This year, joining Bree on her adventure to space will be two ASG students who were selected to represent Australia at the International Space Camp for Students. Based on their outstanding applications in an ASG student promotion, ASG is supporting a space camp adventure for Shaun Howard, a Year 11 student from Covenant College in Victoria, and Georgia Townsend, a Year 12 student from Gosford (Selective) High School in New South Wales.

Shaun Howard and Georgia Townsend have been selected for their exceptional academic achievements and extra-curricular school activities.

Shaun Howard said he "can't wait" to attend the International Space Camp, and this will be an excellent opportunity for him to further embrace his passion and commitment to his Engineering Aviation vocation training studies through his school's VET program.

"I am interested in electronics, aircraft, trains, and the avionics on planes and space shuttles. I am studying a VET course in engineering with an aviation theme, and I have completed work experience with Forstaff Aviation at Avalon Airport," he said.

Georgia Townsend has long held a deep fascination and curiosity for science, physics and space. She aims to continue her science studies at university after completing secondary school.

“Constant questions about how the universe functions and how we can explore its vastness have sparked my interest in physics.

“I wish to attend this camp to expand my knowledge and understanding of what a career in this field would encompass,” Georgia explained.

Shaun and Georgia will join 80 international student delegates at the 2010 International Space Camp for Students held at the International Space and Rocket Center, Alabama (USA) in July 2010.

ASG formed NEiTA in 1994 to help recognise the teaching profession and the important role it plays in the development of young minds. Now in its 17th year, NEiTA has received more than 20,000 nominations, and provided more than \$600,000 in prizes and grants.

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**A list of the National Award recipients and their profiles can be found on the NEiTA website:
www.neita.com.au**

Interviews, Profiles and Images:

- Profiles and images of all national award recipients will be available on the NEiTA website: www.neita.com.au from Friday, 11 June 2010.

Further information about ASG and its education benefits program is available from the ASG website: www.asg.com.au

For more information, please contact:

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