

## **2011 WA Beginning Teacher of the Year winners**

### **Ashleigh Arundel, Secret Harbour Primary School**

Year 2 teacher Ashleigh works closely with her co-workers to lift student results. Her encouraging and enthusiastic teaching incorporates literacy blocks, guided reading and problem solving. Ashleigh tailors her curriculum to meet the individual needs of students. She uses technology to provide engaging and relevant learning opportunities and has developed effective behaviour management practices based on school and Department of Education policies.

### **Sharon Attree, Newton Moore Senior High School**

Sharon's professionalism as a Senior School Engagement Program teacher has created excellent outcomes for at-risk Aboriginal students. She has implemented a program that focuses on the skills, interests and commitments of these students, to give them a greater opportunity of achieving a WA Certificate of Education. The program has seen a significant number of students enter into Aboriginal School-Based Traineeships or Vocational Education and Training.

### **Eloise Crombie, Millen Primary School**

Year 3 teacher Eloise is praised for her work ethic, enthusiasm and energy, and her students benefit from a curriculum catered to their range of abilities. Eloise was a high-achieving graduate from the Priority Placement Program and has volunteered for a range of professional development to improve her students' learning. Eloise's Society and Environment classes are based on the wide-ranging countries of origin of her students.

### **Lauren Horne, Beeliar Primary School**

Lauren is a year 4 and 5 teacher who studies how the personalities and background of her students shape their learning. She then works closely with students, parents and other teachers to implement learning plans that meets their needs. Lauren connects with past and present pupils as a supervisor for Active After School Care and is a dedicated user of Department of Education resources as well as information and communications technology.

### **Nakita Kitson, WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin**

Nakita is an English teacher with a gift for helping students overcome literacy challenges. She has established small literacy groups within her classes and works voluntarily during the students' preparation time to improve their confidence and educational results. Nakita has revised and updated the school's English programs and is working towards a Graduate Diploma in Writing, whose benefits she will pass on to students.

### **Paula Moses, Waggrakine Primary School**

Paula leads her students in implementing Waggrakine's 21st Century Learning program, which is central to the school's participation in the Microsoft Innovative Schools project. Her students participate in sustainability initiatives such as DeforestAction and Fair Trade Chocolate, in addition to their core curriculum. Paula helped establish a partnership for students at Waggrakine with Javanese school children under the Australia-Indonesia BRIDGE Program.

### **Jane Nicholson, Perth Modern School**

Society and Environment teacher Jane uses her excellent knowledge of the physical, social and intellectual needs of her students to improve their educational development. Strategies she has implemented to improve learning include individual education plans and translation of selected texts into Braille for blind students. Jane used her university history qualifications to develop a modern history program that challenges the school's gifted students.

**Leanne O’Kane, Harmony Primary School**

Year 6 teacher Leanne’s lessons reflect her extensive knowledge of the physical, social and intellectual development of her students. She is dedicated to understanding the needs of her class and once attended a Dyslexia SPELD Foundation workshop after a student was diagnosed with the condition. Leanne is an active member of the school’s literacy committee and improves student results by setting targets and analysing progress against national data.

**Scott Sullivan, Tom Price Primary School**

Scott is a specialist Health and Physical Education teacher who has helped raise his students’ attendance levels and engagement with learning. As well as physical education, he has improved results in science, information and communications technology (ICT), health and the arts. Scott promotes his students’ interests by contributing greatly to staff meetings, school development days and committees on ICT and health and wellbeing.

**Emily Upson, Highgate Primary School**

Early Childhood teacher Emily Upson uses a range of resources and educational standards to provide students with opportunities for ‘spontaneous and purposeful play’, which is considered vital in early education. She is highly knowledgeable about the needs of children and has been published in the Australasian Journal of Early Childhood. Emily uses flexible teaching practices to meet the diverse needs of her students.