

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Schools Engagement Action Plan 2016

SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOLS ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

Action Plan 2016

OUTLINE

Western Sydney University's Schools Engagement Strategic Plan 2014-16 encompasses mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations with the school sector, particularly in Greater Western Sydney (GWS), and including public, Catholic systemic and independent schools. Its implementation through annual action plans is guided by the Schools Engagement Reference Group comprising senior school sector administrators and principals, and the Schools Engagement Steering Group comprising senior representatives from key areas of the University.

The 2014-16 plan builds on the achievements and experience of two previous University/schools strategic plans (2008-10 and 2011-13). Contributing to educational aspiration, enrichment, opportunity and attainment is the central focus. Programs aim to promote student engagement in learning, help to build capacity in the school sector and improve results in priority areas agreed upon by the Reference Group.

The priorities of the 2016 Action Plan are:

- gifted and talented education, academic enrichment and critical thinking skills for students
- opportunities for students of diverse backgrounds to engage in education and lifelong learning
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education
- Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering (STEM)
- literacy and numeracy

The performance indicators are:

- Western Sydney University/school sector connections
- School sector feedback
- Participation in programs
- Evaluation of partnerships and programs
- Western Sydney University course enquiries and preferences
- Publicity and media coverage

Strategic foci

RELATIONSHIPS AND AWARENESS

ACTIONS	KEY INITIATIVES IN 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Engage with the school sector at all levels, with a focus on GWS, to build mutual awareness, cooperation and partnerships → Facilitate school sector participation in planning, prioritising, implementing and reviewing approaches and programs, to increase ownership, relevance and effectiveness → Connect school students and their parents with the University to raise awareness of the opportunities it offers, and create ownership, regional loyalty and pride → Foster and support the participation of a wide range of University staff in schools engagement to provide a robust resource base and enhance programs → Link with business, community and other organisations to broaden the scope, perspectives and reach of school-related initiatives → Celebrate achievements and publicise University/schools activities in the wider community to raise the profile of the University, the schools and the region, and engender support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Schools Engagement Reference Group → Major sponsorships – Schools Spectacular, Art Express, yourtutor → Environmental education partnerships → Links with school sector bodies and teacher professional associations → School sector participation in University events and vice versa → Identification of GWS school student/staff achievements and help in publicising them → Recruitment/retention of schools engagement sponsors/partners outside the school sector → Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders, educators and communities → Widening participation in Higher Education through strategies and partnerships assisted by Australian Government Higher Education Participation Programme (HEPP) funding → School Graduate Stories → Educational Events, Opportunities and Competitions publication → Schools website pages → Academy Access Awards → Western Sydney Advantage and scholarship programs for GWS students → Alternative entry and scholarship opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students → Marketing events, visits and publications → Facilitation and support of Western Sydney University School, Institute, Centre and Unit engagement with schools → Database of Western Sydney University/school activities

KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

ACTIONS	KEY INITIATIVES IN 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Establish and extend innovative University/school learning partnerships, programs and activities that enrich the academic and professional development of school sector staff and University staff → Undertake school-related research to generate new knowledge, and disseminate the results to inform policy and practice → Provide schools with access to academic and technical expertise, data, resources, facilities and equipment → Assist the school sector to address identified priorities and implement new government initiatives, including the Australian curriculum → Identify and pursue external funding and sponsorship opportunities to establish, expand and diversify University/schools engagement programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Academic and Professional Speakers in Schools program → Hosting/partnering in school sector events on campus → Further enhancement of the Education Knowledge Network → Development of new research proposals and funding submissions including joint University/school sector submissions → Dissemination of research and evaluation outcomes → School art exhibitions on campus → School of Education new agreements with individual schools

ASPIRATION, ATTAINMENT, RECOGNITION AND PROSPECTS

ACTIONS	KEY INITIATIVES IN 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Create, enhance and promote a variety of opportunities and pathways to encourage and enable school students from all backgrounds and a range of academic achievement levels to enhance their educational attainment and increase their post-school options → Enrich the learning and development of gifted and talented students and help them to realise their potential → Raise the educational aspirations and attainment of school students with a demonstrated capacity to succeed but who might not see post-school study as an option or who need extra support and encouragement to reach their goals → Build Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students' skills and confidence, aspirations and attainment, and higher education preparedness and participation → Help to address students' needs in specific subject areas, particularly science, technology, engineering and maths → Run, partner in and support programs that recognise and reward the achievements of school students → Provide experiential learning for University students that will be of benefit to them personally and professionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → <i>Fast Forward</i> program and <i>Steps@Western Sydney University</i> → <i>First Foot Forward</i> → Young Writers' Day → <i>Math IT</i> → Environmental education enrichment programs → <i>Pathways to Dreaming</i> → Heartbeat → The Australian Brain Bee Challenge → <i>What Matters?</i> writing competition → UniSchools Steer Challenge competition → New options for academic service learning and volunteering in schools → Rural Indigenous Student Visit program → Civics and Citizenship → Kirby Moot → Western U Days (Bankstown, Campbelltown, Parramatta and Penrith) → Nirimba schools partnership → Digital media master class → Astronomy for schools → School student invitations to university events, exhibitions and seminars → Participation in wider programs – Science and Engineering Challenge, RACI titration competition, National Mathematics Summer School, CSIRO Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools, Digital Careers → HSC preparation series → Students with disabilities – suite of events/activities/briefings → Assistance with in-school programs eg gifted and talented programs, refugee homework programs → Pasifika Achievement to Higher Education (PATHE) → YES Eco-Summit → Science and Maths Exposed → Books in Schools partnership → HSC tutorial scheme → Aim Higher → Agriculture Education programs → Widening Indigenous Participation in Higher Education through strategic partnerships projects → Lachlan Macquarie College Maths and Science programs → Widening Participation primary school programs → The Academy programs → Robotics and Solar Car programs

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