Dr Robyn Westcott

Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Learning Innovation

Dr Robyn Westcott believes that good teaching welcomes students into conversation – with academic and professional staff, with scholarly enquiry and with each other. Her commitment to empowering students through dialogue has informed the development of WriteWISE, the University’s student-led writing support program. WriteWISE provides a constructive, community-focused environment in which peer-directed conversations build student confidence in academic writing.

“The WriteWISE program’s 96.7 per cent student satisfaction rating speaks to the effectiveness of encouraging active listening, empathic engagement, mutual respect and a commitment to optimism. As one student observed of their WriteWISE experience, ‘I felt that the University was supporting me, rather than letting me find out the long and hard way’.”

Dr Matthew Bulbert, Associate Professor Martin Whiting, Fiona Jones and Serene Lin-Stephens

Highly commended
Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence
(Team nomination)

Within the biology capstone, the team created a think tank scenario in which students are professional consultants of BioCap Corporation working on ‘commissioned’ projects and self-initiated discovery projects based on their interests. Students learn in a dynamic, problem-based way. They attend professional development workshops to gain the skills required to complete work, including science communication to generate public support and research and development funding. The students also advocate for the STEM profession in the STEM Careers Forum through networking with other professionals and peers.

“The capstone unit motivates students by creating an industry-immersed learning environment inspired by skills for the future, and informed by career research and industry inputs.”

– Dr Matthew Bulbert