

# Recipients: ACU Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning

**2025** - Not Awarded

**2024**

**Dr Nicki Brake**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts, *'A sustained commitment to the holistic development of students, emphasizing wellbeing and connection, through innovative and engaging teaching and learning practices in a supportive environment.'*

**Dr Sindu Geroje**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts, *'Fostering a supportive environment centred on exploration, encouraging students to engage in science learning confidently, without fear of failure or outcome'*

**2023**

**Associate Professor Bhavani Sridharan** Associate Professor , Faculty of Law and Business, *'For pioneering a multipronged approach to uplifting the quality of business education to prepare graduates for the disruptive future workforce through innovation, empowerment and leadership.'*

**Ms Mary Huynh**, Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, *'For leadership of nursing education design that drives authentic learning and builds critical thinking skills for nursing students.'*

**2022**

**Dr Victoria Carruthers**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Education, *'for innovative, interdisciplinary and transformational approaches to teaching art history that foster empathy and inspire learning through imagination, curiosity, critical thinking and self-awareness'*

**Dr Kathleen McGuire**, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts, *'for the development of innovative advancements in professional experience placements, for ACU's Initial Teacher Education students, to increase opportunities for success in preparation for the workplace'*

**2021**

**Dr May Fong Cheong**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law and Business, *'for sustained innovative resources and passionate teaching practices that inspire independent and continued learning, creating a distinctive ACU learning experience for first-year law students'*

**Dr Amanda Gutierrez**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts, *'for partnering with Brisbane Catholic Education, to develop an innovative work integrated learning program intertwining spiritual formation and classroom practice to produce high-potential 'classroom-ready' teachers'*

**Dr John Mahoney**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, *'for creating opportunities that enhance staff's confidence about their teaching practices'*

**Dr John Mahoney (Team Application)**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, *'for constructively aligning six related units across multiple degrees and using highest-level evidence to inform their delivery'*

**Dr Thu Ngo**, Lecturer, Faculty of Education and Arts, *'for incorporating the latest research in the Primary Literacy curriculum and resources development to respond to international and national initiatives for compelling 21st literacy demands'*

**Dr Douglas Whyte**, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Health Sciences, *'for strengthening the teaching-research nexus through the development and promotion of experiential learning opportunities that encourage genuine student engagement with research and researchers at ACU'*

## 2020

**Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman**, Lecturer, Finance, Faculty of Law and Business: *for embedding authentic learning activities in teaching approaches, commensurate with ACU's mission and values to create work-ready business graduates.*

**Dr Rachel Busbridge**, Lecturer, Sociology, Faculty of Education and Arts: *for innovative, passionate teaching that inspires students to transcend the taken-for-granted to deepen learning, advance self-knowledge, and develop as critical and reflective thinkers*

**Dr Beth McLeod**, Lecturer, Outdoor Leadership/Education, Faculty of Health Sciences: *for leadership in sport and outdoor education in the development of strategies and resources that facilitate enhanced student support, learning and the overall ACU experience.*

## 2019

**Dr Renata Cinelli**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for leadership that facilitates enhanced social, cultural and academic student experience; student support; and promotes access to local and global opportunities for ACU students'*

**Dr Joanne Harris**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for making an outstanding contribution to Music education, with student-centred learning the focus of her teaching'.*

**Dr Isabelle Lys**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for scholarly and collaborative approaches to an authentic blended learning environment that facilitates peer learning and engagement in biomedical science curricula'*

**Dr Michael Noetel**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for using top-level evidence to inform teaching, and using top-level evidence to create distinctive graduates'*

**Dr Antonia Pizzey**, Faculty of Theology and Philosophy: *'for teaching theology in an empathetic, student-focused manner which synchronises with ACU's mission and expresses her commitment to truth, academic excellence, and service'*

## 2018

**Associate Professor Nick Carter (Team Application)**, Faculty of Education and Arts

**Team Members:** Dr Duncan Cook and Dr Chris Matthew

*'for inspiring students to learn new skills, create new knowledge and grow as individuals through a unique, hands-on, interdisciplinary History-Geography field school in Rome'*

**Dr Nell Musgrove**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for designing and delivering innovative units which engage students in hands-on experiences of history and increase their capacity to 'do history' in real world settings'*

**Ms Alexandra Logan and Dr Elisa Yule**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for leadership in the development of strategies and resources to involve consumers in the design, delivery and evaluation of mental health curriculum within occupational therapy'*

## 2017

**Dr Robyn Bentley-Williams**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for outstanding contribution to support student learning in Diversity and Inclusive Education through scholarship of teaching and learning to build capacity'*

**Associate Professor Diane Jacobs**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for leadership in learning and teaching at the Speech Pathology discipline, interdisciplinary, and Faculty level'*

## 2016

**Dr Helen Aucote**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for use to evaluative practices to develop a three-pillared lab report writing program to improve student performance, engagement and satisfaction in introductory psychology units'*

**Dr Jen Couch**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for inspiring and motivating youth work students to be engaged and reflective practitioners committed to working with marginalised young people'*

**Dr Bronwyn Gordon (Team application)**, Faculty of Health Sciences

**Team Members:** Mrs Alison Peeler, Mrs Mandy El Ali, Miss Shannon Barnes, Miss Claire Stewart  
*'for student centred teaching strategies which improve the student's experience of child and adolescent nursing through a second year unit of undergraduate study'*

## 2015

**Dr Cathie Harrison**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for leadership and innovation in curricula development teaching and provision of services and resources that reflect strong command of the field of early childhood education'*

**Dr Georgia Clarkson**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for leadership of the development and implementation of distinctive curricula within the discipline of paramedicine inclusive of undergraduate, postgraduate and combined degree programs'*

**Dr Theda Thomas**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for a sustained, scholarly approach to leading curriculum development that develops students as learners, practitioners and critical thinkers in their discipline'*

**Dr Amy Chapman & Dr Natasha Wardman (Team Application)**, Faculty of Education and Arts: *'for collaboratively designing a research-led curriculum in teacher professional ethics that promotes pre-service teachers in understanding and reasoning through ethical tensions during final professional placement'*

## 2014

**Mr Anthony Whitty**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for continued commitment to motivate and inspire student learning in their academic and inter professional units'*

**Dr Helen Webb**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for significant contribution in engaging and motivating paramedic students to learn through the design and implementation of the Diggers Trail Wilderness Exercise'*

**Associate Professor Paula Schulz (Team Application)**, Faculty of Health Sciences

**Team Members:** Ms Machellee Kosiak, Ms Gail Baker, Ms Denise Burdett-Jones, Ms Joclyn Neal, Dr Lynne Dunne, Ms Krishna Heffernan

*'for engaging and supporting Indigenous student learning within an innovative Away from Base Bachelor of Midwifery program'*

**Dr Santha James**, Faculty of Health Sciences: *'for engaging students from diverse backgrounds in the science curriculum and inspiring them for critical thinking and lifelong learning through passionate and scholarly teaching'*