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MEDIA RELEASE

MAINTAINING UNIVERSITY COURSE QUALITY A PRIORITY - ATN

In a ground breaking initiative designed to ensure the highest quality of Australia's university courses, the five universities of the Australian Technology Network (ATN) will undertake a pilot program to 'teach the teachers'.

**Curtin University
of Technology**

The program, which will target ATN university course co-ordinators, has been recognised by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, with an enabling grant to undertake the national pilot project.

**University of
South Australia**

ATN Director, Vicki Thomson said the Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching grant recognises that ATN universities are constantly striving to ensure the highest levels of academic experience for students.

RMIT University

**University of
Technology
Sydney**

"We found that nationally there was little being done in this area – yet it is critical to the final outcomes of the kinds of courses we deliver and their quality. This pilot, which will initially be run out of Curtin University in WA will target those senior academics responsible for oversight of course offerings. The end goal is to ensure the quality of our teaching remains of the highest standard, which in turn will benefit our students."

**Queensland
University
of Technology**

Ms Thomson said many courses develop their programs in consultation with professional bodies, for example ATN Engineering departments tend to be in close contact with Engineers Australia, but there are still some gaps.

The project will be developed over an 18-month period and will run course coordinators through a 12-module program designed to increase their leadership skills, arm them with the latest theories behind teaching and learning, and give them the skills needed to put them into practice.

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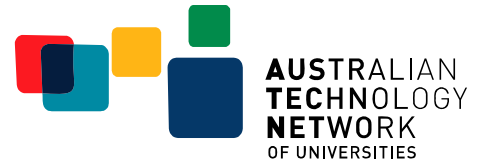
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These skills will then be used as part of every course that the university offers, improving teaching and learning outcomes for all students within the university, and helping to maintain the high standard of Australian education. It is hoped that upon completion of the project, it can be adapted for use across the entire Australian higher education sector.

Ms Thomson said ATN institutions were strongly focused on providing high-quality Teaching and Learning. Apart from this project being developed by the ATN as a whole, four other projects receiving Leadership for Excellence in Learning and Teaching grants involved ATN institutions. In total, almost a quarter of the funding provided by these grants is headed towards ATN universities.

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“The ATN welcomes this outcome as a tangible demonstration of the strong emphasis and commitment that the Network has towards teaching and learning and delivering a quality experience for our students.” Ms Thomson said.

Further information: Vicki Thomson 0417 808 472

For further information about the ATN visit www.atn.edu.au

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