TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

A teacher whose career has spanned two decades was today awarded the inaugural Teacher of the Year Award.

Teaching Principal of Woolaning School, Guna Deva, was presented with the award by Minister for Employment, Education and Training Syd Stirling as part of World Teachers’ Day celebrations today.

The inaugural Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards recognise outstanding Government teachers and schools, acknowledging their excellence and innovation in achieving strong educational outcomes for Territory students.

The winners are:

Teacher of the Year 2005 – Guna Deva from Woolaning School
Currently the Teaching-Principal at Woolaning School, Guna Deva treats each student with respect, kindness and personalised attention. With a wealth of knowledge and skills gained over her 20-year teaching career, Guna believes in integrated and inter-connected learning, and imparts her thirst for knowledge to her students.

Early Career Teacher of the Year – Jan Sparrow from Darwin High School
Jan Sparrow is a dedicated teacher, with a strong rapport with students, peers and parents. Jan is committed to developing within the teaching profession, and has a positive outlook that enables her to bring out the best in her students.

Innovative School of the Year – Sanderson High School
Sanderson High School caters for the needs of a diverse, dynamic group of students through innovative programs including Pathways Day, Intensive Curriculum, and Compacted Curriculum, supported by a well-developed pastoral care program. Sanderson High School is committed to continuous improvement to achieve quality outcomes for senior students.

Highly Commended Innovative School of the Year – Tennant Creek High School
Tennant Creek High School is a small comprehensive school made up mostly of Indigenous students. The school has developed a partnership with Nyinkka Nyunyu Cultural Centre to provide an innovative performance program for students that has resulted in increased enrolments and attendance.

Teaching Excellence Awards Remote Secondary – Heather Milton from Maningrida CEC
Heather Milton has been involved in the development and delivery of the first accredited Secondary Program at Maningrida CEC. She is an outstanding teacher, a strong leader and a team-player. A role model for her peers, Heather believes that secondary education at Maningrida belongs to the whole school community.
Teaching Excellence Awards Remote Primary – Yalmay Yunupingu from Yirrkala CEC  
Yalmay Yunupingu has worked at Yirrkala CEC for 30 years, and is a bicultural role model for students and staff. A stalwart in the field of Two-Way Education, she is an effective leader who works collaboratively with other staff members, and models and encourages professional learning sessions, action group meetings and community involvement.

Teaching Excellence Awards Urban Secondary – David Arnold from Katherine High School  
As the Special Education Teacher at Katherine High School since 2003, David has shaped and moulded the Intensive Learning Unit through a well developed Living Independently Program. David is passionate about promoting student well-being, confidence and self esteem, and is committed to nurturing his students. He has been instrumental in the introduction of the Certificate 1 in Horticulture for students with special learning needs – a course that has given students meaningful work, pride and dignity.

Teaching Excellence Awards Urban Primary – Caroline Hughes from Jingili Primary School  
An Early Childhood Teacher at Jingili Primary School, Caroline Hughes provides a safe, stimulating, fun-filled environment for learning. She involves parents and the school community in her innovative projects, and has played a significant role in establishing a sister school relationship with Le Lau Primary School in East Timor. She also coordinates the sponsorship of a Guatemalan child for Jingili Primary School.

The Minister thanked the teachers who nominated their colleagues, and also school communities and the general public for getting behind the inaugural Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards.

“It is through your support and nominations that we are able to give recognition where recognition is due to our Territory teachers of excellence,” he said.

“It is particularly fitting that we are presenting the awards on World Teachers’ Day.

“I join parents, students, staff and the community in paying tribute to the commitment and success of not only the award-winners, but all of our Territory teachers. You are delivering quality education and constantly improving results. This is your day.”

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