

2020 ACE College Medal awarded – to all Australian educators

The Australian College of Educators (ACE) announced today that its 2020 College Medal would be awarded to all Australian educators, in recognition of their extraordinary work to meet the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Australia's longest serving professional association for educators awards this prestigious honour to the educator who has made the most exceptional contribution to Australian education that year. Previous College Medallists include education notables Dr [Michele Bruniges](#) AM, Dr Gerald White FACE, Emeritus Professor [Denise Bradley](#) AO FACE (dec.), Professor [Geoff Masters](#) AO FACE and Mr [Anthony Mackay](#) AM FACE.

“The College Medal recognises outstanding work in any field, level or sector of Australian education,” said ACE managing director Helen Jentz. “Our judging panel considered many remarkable nominees for this year’s College Medal, but the ACE Board has made an unprecedented decision in an extraordinary year to acknowledge the hard work of *all* educators in 2020.”

Education was hit hard by restrictions introduced in response to the pandemic, with many schools and universities closed for long periods and educators forced to adapt rapidly to meet changed teaching conditions. The profession responded nimbly and flexibly to maintain delivery of quality education for all learners.

“Education has at times been seen to be slow to evolve and adapt, but 2020 has truly shown just how progressive, innovative and incredibly resilient teachers are,” ACE National President Dr Phil Lambert said. “The ACE Board felt that, rather than singling out one contribution, the College Medal should recognise the continued commitment to excellence under challenging circumstances demonstrated by all of Australia’s teachers.”

Teachers from early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational education and training and adult education share the prestigious accolade, and ACE congratulates all education professionals – from classroom practitioners to the heads of education systems – for their incredible work this year.

2009 College Medallist and chief executive of the Australian Council for Educational Research, Professor Geoff Masters, said: “The past year has required an exceptional response from every educator and has brought a new level of public respect for the work of teachers everywhere.”

Mr Mackay, 2006 ACE College Medallist, applauded the decision: “2020 shone a bright light on the education profession to reveal teachers’ passion for, and deep commitment to, their students and their craft,” he said.

Notes to media:

- ACE President Dr Phil Lambert is available for interview.
- Established in 1959, ACE is Australia’s longest serving, most prestigious professional body for all education professionals and has a network of around 20,000 educators around the country.
- For more information: www.austcolled.com.au.
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