

# PDHPE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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Association

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## Citation for Early Career Teacher Award 2019

This teacher has made an excellent start to their PDHPE teaching career.

This teacher is an excellent classroom practitioner who has demonstrated a genuine passion for the education of all students. His enthusiasm and expertise in the classroom environment engages students in the learning process and he uses the Australian Professional Teaching Standards to guide his preparation and implementation. He has exhibited a willingness to try new concepts and has developed a repertoire of innovative ideas to engage the diverse range of students at Tamworth High School. His lessons are always well structured with clear learning intentions and success criteria for students to use to aid in understanding what they are setting out to achieve and a pathway to get there.

Observations of the inclusive classroom environment that he creates shows students who know what they are learning about and why, show a clear idea of the steps they need to take to be successful in their learning as well as a student-centred environment where students have autonomy over the way they interpret the syllabus content. It is evident that he is willing to trial new concepts in the classroom and is open to feedback from his students, colleagues and executive staff. An example of this is his implementation of a Peer Coaching assessment for a lower level PASS class. With the correct support measures in place and a well-structured scaffold he was able to help these particular students to successfully complete this task and support them when working outside their comfort zone.

He has demonstrated innovative ICT knowledge through a variety of domains. His contributions to the faculty Google Drive have been outstanding, with high quality communication when new content is available for a particular subject/class. His use of online learning tools such as Kahoot!, Google Classroom and PDHPE specific apps has allowed his students to access the curriculum in a way that is effective for their learning. He is the co-leader of the internal sports program at Tamworth High School. At the beginning of 2019 all school sport was held on school grounds, with limited facilities and with a large number of disengaged students. He co-lead the redevelopment of the internal sports program by liaising with local community sports providers to access affordable off site opportunities and through the use of Edval online technology he was able to effectively implement a sports selection process to increase opportunities for the diverse range of students in a way that was time effective. The outcome of this is a decrease in

behaviour referrals throughout sports time and reported increases in participation from all sports teachers.

He holds high expectations of his students and is extremely thorough with his implementation of behavioural management strategies. Upon observation of his classroom management it is evident that he has a large tool box of strategies to cater for students who respond in a variety of ways. In addition to this, he is extremely consistent and fair in his approach to each and every student which has resulted in a strong rapport with the students that he teaches. He has intermittently filled in as HT PDHPE and has liaised with executive staff to ensure that school processes are correctly implemented for any behavioural issues that may arise and feedback from Senior Executives indicate that he is an effective operator that demonstrates an understanding of behaviour management processes but also the delicate nature of dealing with students as individuals.

He has created a culture of high expectations with his Rugby League program. This program consists of a large number of students that have behavioural concerns from staff across the school. In collaboration with all KLA's, he communicates his high expectations to the boys and extends that further than the Rugby League program but to all classes. Staff feel confident to let him know if there are students not following classroom expectations and he uses Rugby League and respectful sporting etiquette as a tool to keep them on track for the benefit of their education but also for their opportunity to excel in sport.

With the implementation of the new syllabus he has been an avid contributor to new programs, assessments and resources. His ability to think outside the box and apply the curriculum content to the specific context of Tamworth High School has been a fabulous asset to our PDHPE faculty. He is currently leading the development of programs for the new PASS syllabus and regularly communicates to the PDHPE team about progress, resource requirements and assessment strategies that he intends to use. His leadership extends to the analysis of data through the use of SCOUT, although only new to him he has demonstrated a desire to understand how data can inform effective teaching and learning to enhance the progress and achievement of all students.

He has been involved in evaluation of programs and assessments to ensure that they are high quality and meet the needs of the students at Tamworth High School. He often communicates the concerns he may have about the effectiveness of a particular resource, but will always bring a solution to the table which is an outstanding attribute to have.

Kurt has willingly joined the Tamworth High School Professional Learning Community (PLC) which is a group that meets on a fortnightly basis to discuss different educational reforms, school processes and professional improvement strategies. This is a non-compulsory group that Kurt has joined for his own personal improvement, to increase communication and collaboration with staff members outside of the PDHPE faculty and to enhance his leadership capacity. As a result of his participation in this group, he has exhibited an increased confidence in contributions to faculty and whole school meetings. In addition to this, Kurt has been an excellent supporter of the Visible Learning concepts that are being implemented at Tamworth High School. He will always communicate his understanding at whole school meetings and has engaged the wider collegial community with his enthusiasm towards the implementation of VL.

He is a highly respected member of the Tamworth High School staff and community. His willingness to engage in not only faculty initiatives but the wider school is a demonstration of his positive attitude, passion for teaching and desire to ensure that all students are provided with opportunities to progress and achieve. He has supported numerous PDHPE faculty events such as the Big Beep, Staff vs. Students, Rugby League and Oz tag Coaching and National HPE day. In addition to this he has developed his own Rugby League program which he runs in his lunch times and after school. As a result, in collaboration with the head teacher, he has created a PASS elective that focuses heavily on Rugby League and 30+ students have selected this course for 2020.

He is active in the wider school community through his involvement in the PLC group as well as his participation in events such as PAWgust, Cultural Food Festival, NAIDOC week, ANZAC Day Celebrations and support of Girls Academy events. His involvement has been from participation through to shared leadership of these community based activities.

He is an exceptional member of the Tamworth High PDHPE faculty who makes valuable contributions to the team. His articulate communication skills have allowed him to be an effective operator in the wider school community and with parents/caregivers of the students that he teaches.

The worthy recipient of the PDHPE Teachers' Association Early Career Teacher Award for 2019 is:

Kurt Hartmann