



Media release

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New funding announced for TLRI

Three educational researchers from Dunedin have received funding under the Teaching & Learning Research Initiative (TLRI) announced today.

- Dr Jude MacArthur, a Senior Researcher at the Donald Beasley Institute, will be carrying out a one-year study which looks at the learning and social experiences of transient students in a rural school, and explores ways in which professional development for teachers can benefit these students.
- Chris Linsell, a senior lecturer in the Mathematics Department of the Dunedin College of Education, will be undertaking a one-year study which will focus on the knowledge and strategic thinking of students as they make the transition from arithmetic to algebra. Chris will be working with three local high schools - John McGlashan College, Kings High School, and Otago Boys' High School.
- Dr Susan Sandretto from the University of Otago will lead a collaborative research project into the development and integration of critical literacy practices. In 2006 the research team will include primary school teachers from East Taieri School, Port Chalmers School, Balaclava School, and Brockville School. In 2007 the research team will be expanded to include one local secondary school.

Two other projects in this year's TLRI funding will also have input from Otago educators.

- Dr Trevor McDonald from Education Associates will be partnering with three secondary schools, including Roxburgh Area School and Waitaki Girls' High School, in a two-year project studying cross-curricula literacy teaching and learning in secondary schools.
- University of Otago staff will also be involved in another TLRI project, participating in a three-year study led by Dr Kogi Naidoo of Massey University in partnership with all New Zealand universities, looking at the impact of teaching and learning enhancement initiatives (TLEIs) on first year university students.

The TLRI aims to produce real and practical outcomes for teaching and learning through collaborative research projects that will lead to improved teaching standards, better understanding of students' needs and improvements in New Zealand's education system. This is the third year of funding, and including those announced today there will be 43 separate research projects in the TLRI programme.

The projects continue important research work currently being done across the education spectrum, and the 2005 recipients cover a geographically, culturally, and socially diverse group of schools, tertiary institutions, and early childhood learning environments.

The selection panel chose projects that needed investigation, dealt with areas significant to raising educational achievement, and which will result in new knowledge that has a practical impact on teaching and learning in New Zealand.

One of the main criteria for projects was a commitment to partnerships, and the panel noted that three schools, Aranui High School in Christchurch, Richmond Road School in Auckland, and Redwood School in Tawa, were taking the leadership role in their respective research projects.

The New Zealand Council of Educational Research is contracted to manage the programme on behalf of the Ministry of Education. A team of specialists in key areas of educational research manage the initiative and assist the researchers.

ENDS

A list of the research projects in the 2005 funding round and background information is attached.

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