

**19 October, 2015**

## **ASG mentoring program gives Monash students a taste of the 'real classroom'**

Around 600 education students at Monash University will spend the next week being mentored by some of the best teachers in Australia.

The mentoring program, between ASG and the Faculty of Education at Monash, will link student teachers to current ASG National Excellence in Teaching Award (ASG NEiTA) recipients, as they participate in face to face forums and online sessions.

Starting from today, the mentoring program will give students an opportunity to talk with the ASG NEiTA recipients about their life as teachers, covering early childhood to secondary education, and interact with them online.

The ASG NEiTA mentors who will attend the Clayton, Berwick and Peninsula campuses are:

[David Gilkes](#) (2014 Early Childhood) Illawarra Primary School, TAS

[Brianna Loves](#) (2014 Primary) Hampton Park Primary School, VIC

[Evangelos Polymeneas](#) (2014 Secondary) Salisbury High School, SA.

ASG CEO John Velegrinis says this initiative continues to foster the relationship ASG has built with these quality teachers, who are also highly respected in their communities.

"We are really excited about taking our partnership to the next level, so there are continued benefits. These are experienced and passionate teachers who are keen to share their knowledge of classroom practice and education with pre-service teachers.

"It's disheartening to hear that almost 40 per cent of teaching graduates are leaving the profession in their first year, with a study by ACER showing 30 per cent of teachers are unsure if they'll remain in the profession. We want to make sure that teaching doesn't become a throw-away profession, but a profession which teaching graduates can be proud of, understanding their valuable role in educating the next generation," said Mr Velegrinis.

Associate Professor Sivanes Phillipson of Monash University's Faculty of Education says the mentoring program will give Monash students a taste of what to expect in the real world.

"This is a really unique opportunity for this first year cohort of education students who are in their final week of learning in their second semester at Monash. They'll be able to interact, ask questions and learn and from these ASG NEiTA recipients who are highly respected education professionals and it's an honour to have them share their skills, knowledge and experience with Monash students.

"This experience will give our first year students more foresight in terms of what they can possibly do to be a great teacher themselves. This is only the beginning of what could be a fruitful yet challenging journey to a rewarding career as a teacher."

Ends.

**Media contact:**

For further information or to arrange an interview with ASG CEO John Velegrinis, Associate Professor Sivanes Phillipson or any of the teachers please contact:

Nicole Gundi  
Media and Communications Adviser  
(03) 9276 7520 / 0448 167 578  
[publicrelations@asg.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@asg.com.au)

**Editor's notes:**

*The Australian Scholarships Group (ASG) is a member owned organisation, helping to create educational opportunities for children. ASG has been helping families and their children for more than 40 years. During this time, more than 520,000 children have been enrolled with ASG and more than \$2 billion in education benefits and scholarship payments returned to members. For more information visit: [www.asg.com.au](http://www.asg.com.au).*