Wollongong announced as successful host for literacy and numeracy summer school

17 Sep 2007 | Bernie Goldie

The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, has announced that the University of Wollongong has been named as part of a successful consortium to enhance the literacy and numeracy skills for Australian teachers.

The minister said that the Summer Schools, to be held in January 2008, will play a pivotal role in providing high-quality professional development for the country’s teachers to better support their role of delivering the very best primary and secondary education in Australia.

“Up to 1,000 of Australia’s best teachers will have the opportunity to attend an all expenses paid 10-day residential course to enhance their training in one of five areas -- literacy and numeracy, English, maths, science and Australian history.”

UOW’s Professor Beverly Derewianka will lead the consortium with Edith Cowan University, the University of New England and the Australian Literacy Educators’ Association in delivering the Summer School which will be held in Wollongong from 7-18 January 2008.

Dr Jan Turbill, a Senior Fellow with UOW’s Faculty of Education, said news that UOW was part of the successful consortium for the literacy and numeracy skills summer school was a tremendous reflection on the quality of the research and teaching of the faculty’s academics in the literacy and numeracy fields.

The minister said that applications were now open for the inaugural Summer Schools, and she encouraged all eligible teachers in government and non-government schools nationally to consider applying for this outstanding professional learning opportunity. Teachers will receive a $5,000 bonus upon completion of the Summer School.

“I am pleased that an impressive collection of high-quality consortia have been selected to deliver the first five summer school courses next year. This was a highly competitive process and the successful providers have the knowledge and expertise to deliver professional learning of the highest quality,” Ms Bishop said.

Applications for the Summer Schools close on 17 October 2007. For details please go to: www.summerschools.dest.gov.au