



Department of
Education and Training

Media Statement

8 July 2009

Attention: Editor/Chief of Staff

Nominate now for the 2009 WA Education Awards

Western Australia's best public school principal of 2008 has urged communities to show their gratitude to those who educate our children by nominating a favourite school or staff member for the WA Education Awards 2009.

Tuart College principal John Anderton of Duncraig, was named WA Principal of the Year last year after being nominated by a colleague.

Mr Anderton said it was important to recognise educators who worked hard to help students achieve their best.

"Being nominated for the award means a great deal to the nominee," Mr Anderton said.

"My win reflected on the school too; visitors are always impressed when they see the award plaque in the office."

During his 10 years as principal, Mr Anderton has broadened the school's course offerings from just a handful of TEE subjects to a diverse roster of tertiary entrance and wholly school assessed subjects, and a range of short adult education courses.

Mr Anderton is known for having an open door and being an effective mentor to all staff and students.

"I think the awards raised my profile within the school," he said.

"I always try to have contact with all my students, but now the students are more aware that I'm always here for them and they are more likely to come to see me.

"Being acknowledged by your peers is such an amazing feeling but it doesn't happen unless someone makes the effort to nominate you."

Nominations for the 2009 WA Education Awards are now open.

The categories and prizes for 2009 are:

- Premier's Teacher of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Principal of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA School Support Staff Member of the Year – \$25 000 (50% for professional learning)
- WA Literacy School of the Year sponsored by Edith Cowan University – \$15 000
- WA Numeracy School of the Year sponsored by Teachers Credit Union – \$15 000
- WA Science School of the Year sponsored by ExxonMobil – \$15 000.

Department of Education and Training Director General Sharyn O'Neill said the awards recognise Western Australia's best educators.

“Quality teachers, principals, support staff and schools are the basis of a great education,” she said.

“The professional learning opportunities created by the awards and the cash prizes to schools benefit the whole school community and teachers are able to engage students in exciting lessons which enhance their learning.

“Give your child’s teacher, school or principal the ultimate thank you by nominating them for an award.”

Anyone interested in nominating a school or staff member for the WA Education Awards should talk with their school’s principal.

Nomination kits are available from all public schools or using det.wa.edu.au/educationawards.

(ENDS)

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