Dear Principals and Geography Teachers,

I am writing to inform you of an HSC Geography Enrichment Day for year 12 geography students to be held at the University of Western Sydney on Friday August 22, 2014. At this schools engagement event our academic staff will present current research connected to key areas of focus in the geography syllabus. The event will also incorporate an expert teacher panel comprised of two highly experienced teachers who, between them, have extensive HSC geography teaching, examination and curriculum development experience. This panel will relate presentations back to the syllabus and explain how students could use the material in their geography HSC exam. The material presented on the day is intended to extend students’ learning in syllabus areas and provide unique case studies for use in the exam. This year’s event builds on a highly successful enrichment day held in 2013.

Students who attend the event and pass an exam on Saturday 23rd August will be eligible to be considered for a conditional early offer into four degree programs at the University of Western Sydney:

- Bachelor of Planning (Pathway to Master of Urban Management and Planning);
- Bachelor of Tourism Management;
- Bachelor of Social Science (Advanced);
- Bachelor of Social Science (with a Geography and Urban Studies, Heritage or Peace and Development major).

These are high demand, nationally respected programs. The Urban Planning and Tourism Management programs are currently the top ATAR planning and tourism programs in NSW. The exam will be 90 minutes in length and will ask students to apply the enrichment day case studies to HSC extended response style questions. The offer will be conditional on the student subsequently achieving an ATAR that satisfies conditions for acceptance of early offers to UWS. In 2013, 82% of students who sat the exam were offered conditional offers to UWS. This year, students will also be able to apply for a conditional scholarship that will be awarded based on their grade in the exam, and conditional on subsequently receiving an ATAR of at least 90. The scholarship is $5,000 a year for up to 4 years.
Please find enclosed in this package a poster for classrooms and postcards for distribution to year 12 students studying geography at your school. Further information can be found on the event website: www.uws.edu.au/hscgeography. It would be greatly appreciated if you could pass these materials on to relevant teacher/s and students. If you are interested in additional information on the Enrichment Day, the early offer opportunity or the courses offered by the School of Social Sciences and Psychology, please do not hesitate to contact our event coordinator Dr Garth Lean on g.lean@uws.edu.au or 0421 326 406.

Kind regards,

Kevin Dunn
Dean, School of Social Sciences and Psychology and Professor of Human Geography and Urban Studies