

# Research Directions

Office of Research Services

## ***Sustainable Learning for Teachers***

**Dr Kevin Watson and several colleagues from the School of Education are collaborating with 9 NSW High Schools to develop models for professional development of secondary school teachers through a Federal Government School Innovation in Science, Technology and Mathematics (ASISTM) project grant.**



‘Australia is currently in crisis regarding engagement of students in maths, science and technology, and retention and development of teachers in these subject areas’ says Dr Watson. ‘The Federal Governments ASISTM project aims to improve the way these subjects are taught in Australian schools by encouraging schools to form partnerships with industry, science organisations and universities. Our project will further ASISTM aims by introducing a mentoring model in NSW partner schools to advance teaching practise and increase student learning outcomes in maths, science and technology.’

Utilizing existing systems, structures, processes and resources in partner schools, a mentoring program will be implemented that will involve knowledge sharing between teachers and UWS Master of Teaching (M.Teach) students. Maths, science and technology departments within schools will collaborate to integrate learning activities associated with interactive whiteboard technology across these subjects for students to experience ‘rich learning tasks’ associated with design, technological understanding, literacy and numeracy. Science, maths and technology departments will also collaborate across the nine participating schools to develop and present professional learning workshops and other activities for M.Teach students and current teachers, to build a sense of belonging to a teaching community.

The research will build a sustainable network of partners who can contribute to changing school culture to seek innovative teaching and learning through collaboration and increase students’ academic performance in science, maths and technology. It will also improve teachers’ professional learning and narrow the gap between the theory taught to M.Teach students and the practise of teaching in schools. These benefits are expected to increase student numbers in senior science, maths and technology subjects, (some of whom may become teachers), and support teacher retention and better preparation of pre-service teachers.

**Project Title:** School and University Partnership to Enhance Students Outcomes: Developing a model of sustainable professional learning

**Funding has been set at:** \$121,000 over two years

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