

UWS/Schools Strategic Plan: Building Better Relationships with Schools 2008–10

Outline

Building Better Relationships with Schools 2008-10 encompasses mutually beneficial partnerships and collaborations with the school sector, particularly in Greater Western Sydney, and including public, Catholic systemic and independent schools. Its implementation through annual action plans is guided by the Schools Engagement Reference Group comprising senior school sector administrators and principals, and the Schools Engagement Steering Group comprising senior representatives from key areas of the University.

Contributing to educational enrichment and attainment are central foci. Programs aim to promote student engagement in learning, help to build capacity in the school sector and improve results in priority areas as defined by the Reference Group and the State Plan, and more broadly, at national level. These include:

- » gifted and talented education, academic enrichment and critical thinking skills;
- » numeracy and literacy;
- » Indigenous education;
- » Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering (STEM); and
- » student engagement in education and lifelong learning, particularly for disadvantaged groups, helping to improve school retention, and higher education preparedness and participation rates.

The 2010 Action Plan builds on the achievements and learning of the previous two years, which saw significant growth in the depth, range and reach of UWS/schools engagement activities. This year we will further expand and enhance existing programs, as well as introducing a select number of new initiatives in priority areas. 2010 will also encompass the review and renewal of the UWS/schools strategic plan.

Performance Indicators

These indicators apply to the 2010 Action Plan as a whole. Some strategies also have their own specific indicators.

- » UWS/school sector connections
- » School sector feedback
- » Participation in programs
- » Evaluation of partnerships and programs
- » UWS course enquiries and preferences
- » Publicity and media coverage

Schools Action Plan 2010 – Strategies, Foci, Key Initiatives and Performance Indicators

Strategy ¹	2010 Foci	Key initiatives (* new for 2010)	Indicators
<p>Strategy 1 – Engaging with the school sector <i>Develop and maintain school sector relationships to enable open communication, matching of goals, alignment of priorities and formulation of programs, and to foster understanding, cooperation and interchange</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continuing to extend and enhance the links between UWS and the school sector – Engaging more substantially with school principals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schools Engagement Reference Group – GWS Education Alliance – Sponsorship of school sector events: Young Scientists, Schools Spectacular, <i>Art Express</i> – Links with school sector bodies and teacher professional associations – School participation in UWS events and vice versa – Formal agreements in relation to specific groups of schools – Other strategies contribute to strategy 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Connections resulting in new partnerships/ collaborative programs
<p>Strategy 2 – Collaborating to achieve results <i>Extend and establish collaborative programs and activities with schools and provide schools with access to expertise and resources to help them meet their needs and goals</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extending/enhancing partnerships in key areas including Gifted and Talented Education; Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology; Indigenous Education; Environmental Education; Educational Equity – Increasing the expertise and educational resources available to the school sector – Involving more UWS students in a greater range of schools engagement activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expansion of Academic Speakers in Schools – Further development of Lachlan Macquarie College partnership – Gifted and Talented Education partnerships and collaborations – Indigenous education initiatives – Collaborative development of online materials/resources for/accessible to schools – Hosting/partnering in school sector events on campus – Environmental education initiatives/links – School art exhibitions on campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Schools' use and evaluation of expertise/resources – UWS student participation in schools engagement

¹ Overarching aims, strategies and sub-strategies were defined in *Building Better Relationships with Schools 2008-11*

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Strategy	2010 Foci	Key initiatives (* new for 2010)	Indicators
<p>Strategy 3 – Enriching and empowering students <i>Enhance students' confidence, knowledge, skills and educational attainment through enrichment and equity programs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Extending the range of academic enrichment activities for school students – Establishing, extending and evaluating programs that engage students and build their confidence and skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lachlan Macquarie College maths and science enrichment programs – Expansion of the Indigenous School Student Mentoring Program – <i>Fast Forward</i> – * <i>Fast Forward Primary</i> – pilot – <i>Discover Science</i> – * <i>UWS Writing Day</i> – * Pilot program to engage Indigenous students in health and medicine – * Students on campus: ICT and maths – Expansion of UWS/DET environmental education programs – Astronomy nights and lecture series – Competitions – Academic service learning in schools, including units addressing needs of equity groups – UWS Day – Nursing subjects for the HSC – Other subject-specific programs e.g. ysf@UWS, HSC extension maths with SWS DET – Participation in wider events e.g. Science and Engineering Challenge, Siemens Science Experience, Honeywell Engineering Summer School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Participant feedback and teacher-observed data – Evaluation of student aspiration/attainment
<p>Strategy 4 – Enhancing professional skills <i>Enhance the skills of GWS school staff through professional development activities and provide opportunities for school and UWS staff to learn from each others' experience</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Developing/collaborating in/ delivering professional development activities in key areas including Gifted and Talented Education; Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology; Environmental Education – Providing more professional development and networking opportunities for school executives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – * Centre for Excellence partnerships – * Teachers on campus: ICT and mathematics – * NSW DET Environmental Education Conference on campus – Extension of Education Knowledge Network – School staff invitations to UWS seminars relevant to their disciplines – Australian Government Quality Teaching Program projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Range and number of professional development opportunities for schools – School staff participation in activities

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Strategy	2010 Foci	Key initiatives (* new for 2010)	Indicators
<p>Strategy 5 – Building awareness <i>Foster UWS/school interaction and information exchange, and raise awareness of the achievements of GWS school and University students and educators to engender regional loyalty and pride</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Raising awareness of UWS/schools engagement in the wider community – Increasing interest in UWS courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>School Graduate Stories</i> – Schools website pages – Most Outstanding Year 11 Student Awards – Marketing programs and publications – ‘Get Ready for Uni’ website for students with disabilities – Information and aspiration-building events for students with disabilities – Triple Advantage and scholarship program for GWS students – Alternative entry and scholarship opportunities for Indigenous students – Identification of GWS school student/staff achievements and help in publicising them – Promotion of UWS/schools engagement programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Feedback from events and interactive/information products – Media releases
<p>Strategy 6 – Conducting research and sharing the results <i>Undertake school-related research, particularly research linked to sector and regional priorities, and disseminate the results to inform policy and practice</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Building the range and number of partnerships in priority areas – Extending the dissemination of research results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Development of new research proposals and funding submissions including joint UWS/school sector joint submissions – School-related research and evaluation projects – Dissemination of research and evaluation outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – School-related research funding – Research partnerships with sector – Dissemination of research results
<p>Strategy 7 – Ensuring support from the UWS community <i>Promote, nurture and systematically support school engagement activities within the University to help ensure the Strategic Plan and Action Plan are effective and sustainable</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increasing the number and significance of links between UWS areas and the school sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Implementation of the Schools Strategic Plan and Action Plans, documentation of progress and performance assessment – Promotion, facilitation and support of UWS College, School, Centre and Unit engagement with schools – Database of UWS/schools activities – Compilation of school sector data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Progress against KPIs – Knowledge/support for schools engagement within UWS
<p>Strategy 8 – Seeking support from the wider community <i>Seek external support to enhance and extend UWS/school sector activities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Continuing existing partnerships and increasing sponsorships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – * Expansion of the yourtutor sponsorship – Identification of government and other funding opportunities for UWS/schools engagement activities and submission of funding proposals – Recruitment/retention of schools engagement sponsors and partnerships outside the school sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New and continuing sponsorships – Partnerships outside the school sector