

## Executive Director's Welcome



Welcome to the For Schools pages at the University of Western Sydney, where you will find information about UWS/schools partnerships, programs, learning opportunities for students and school staff, resources, events, research projects, news and views and much more.

The University's Schools Strategic Plan is the framework for our extensive range of schools engagement activities. The Plan was developed in close consultation with the school sector. It focuses on mutually beneficial partnerships and programs that contribute to school student engagement in learning, educational aspirations, opportunities and attainment, particularly in Greater Western Sydney. Our priorities are:

- Gifted and talented education, academic enrichment and critical thinking activities
- 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 Strategic Plan is implemented through annual Action Plans drawing on the input of the UWS Schools Engagement Reference Group, comprising senior administrators and school principals from the public, Catholic systemic and independent school sub-sectors, and a senior internal Steering Group comprising stakeholders from key areas across the University.

The Plans reflect the importance we place on our connection and commitment to educational attainment in Greater Western Sydney, and our engagement in school and community-based partnerships.

UWS has a coordinated and direct relationship with over 400 schools in the Greater Western Sydney area. Every year thousands of school students participate in enrichment and skill building programs as well as research projects, marketing events, sponsored activities and on-campus sport. Hundreds of teachers and school staff benefit from the professional development activities run or co-run by UWS.

These pages are regularly updated as new programs and initiatives are implemented. Your feedback is welcome.

**Mr Angelo Kourtis**

Executive Director, Engagement and Partnerships