

ACU Vice-Chancellor's Medal for Excellence for Student Urgent Relief Fund

Australian Catholic University's **Student Urgent Relief Fund Team** has been awarded the 2020 Vice-Chancellor's Medal for Excellence for their work to establish a fund to provide financial help to students impacted by COVID-19.

The team, consisting of Rachele Bramley, Tara Loty, Kathy Sweeney, Jing Tong and Adrienne Conway, was awarded the medal at the 2020 Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Awards on Thursday 29 October.

During the virtual ceremony, Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Awards were presented to staff across six categories: Mission Excellence, Service Excellence, Spirit of Reconciliation Excellence, Excellence in Student Experience, Excellence in Community Engagement, and Excellence in Research and Research Partnership.

These annual awards acknowledge staff who have made an outstanding contribution to ACU or the wider community and have demonstrated their commitment to the University's Mission and values.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Greg Craven announced the medal-winners at the ceremony, selected from the category winners below:

Mission Excellence

The Student Urgent Relief Fund Team, for raising funds to support grants for students through the pandemic.

The Campus Ministry's Staff Ministry Team, for its work in providing a distinctive and mission-oriented ministry to our staff.

Service Excellence

The Digital Workspace Program and Team, for swiftly rolling out a digital collaboration space through COVID-19.

The Examination Team Plus, for its rapid response in providing students with a regular exam timetable.

Excellence in Community Engagement

Dr Syed Muhammad Fazal-e-Hasan, for his project working with asylum seekers and migrants ...

Dr Laura Miller, for championing community engagement with the Brisbane Paralympic Football Program.

Excellence in Student Experience

The Response to COVID-19 Team (led by the Director Learning and Teaching Centre and Associate Deans Learning and Teaching), for their excellent leadership in moving teaching to an online delivery mode during the pandemic.

The Living and Learning Communities Team, which has assisted residents in ACU student accommodation, and supported students with tenancy issues during COVID-19.

Excellence in Research and Research Partnership

Professor Kathy Mills, for forging innovative partnerships and assisting students with sustainable research impact and empathy.

The Playgroups for Learning Team, which has built the evidence base around the benefits of playgroup participation for children and families.

Spirit of Reconciliation Award (new), recognising the contributions of ACU staff to reconciliation, and towards achieving culturally appropriate programs.

The Occupational Therapy Curriculum Team, for its excellent work embedding First Peoples within the occupational therapy curriculum ...

The Supporting Culturally Responsive Practice During Fieldwork Placements Team, for helping to create culturally safe learning environments for Indigenous people.

Due to the wealth of excellent nominations this year, the efforts of three individuals are also highly commended. They are:

- **Rhys King** for providing service excellence through IT support to staff and students on the Banyo Campus.
- **Dr Joe Perry** for his outstanding leadership of the ACU Murray to Moyne Cycle Team.
- And **Chrissy Monteleone** for her exemplary spirit of reconciliation through her work in the Away from Base program.

Professor Craven congratulated the winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Medal and thanked each of the entrants for their work.

"Throughout my time as Vice-Chancellor, I have always appreciated the immense importance of our staff contributions.

"I've been proud of the way our university community has persevered through the turmoil of this year, to deliver world-class initiatives that so strongly align with our mission. It has been an honour to work with them."

For more details about the projects and information about the 2020 ACU Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Awards, visit the [ACU website](#).

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