‘Out of the lecture – into the classroom’ - video transcript 14/11/13

Narrator:

La Trobe University education students are taking part in a pilot program that will re-invent pre-service teacher training. Instead of all classes being held at the university, students undertaking training in Teaching Literacy attend lectures on site at participating schools, such as Mildura’s Ranfurly Primary School. They then immediately enter a working classroom to observe the practical application of the theory.

Cindy Tassone, Lecturer:

Students have commented on how rich their experience has been being able to have their lecture on site, listen to what I have to say about an approach or about literacy, and then 20 minutes later being able to go into a classroom and actually view it in action.

Narrator:

The initiative not only prepares students for their practicum placements, but exposes them to new ideas being implemented in modern classrooms.

Dr Deborah Neal, Coordinator Education:

Spending this extra time in classrooms doing their subject, seeing in modelled by teachers in the classroom is a wonderful way to re-enforce the types of 21st century skills we want our pre-service teachers to have.

Narrator:

Second year student Kate Donaldson says the opportunity to witness the practical application of methods and theories in the classroom has helped her prepare for her teaching practicums.

Kate Donaldson, Student:

I feel we get a more real experience of how the literacy blocks are taught and in particular the focus groups week by week.

Narrator:

With approximately 90 per cent of La Trobe University Mildura’s education students remaining in the region after they graduate, local principals say that programs like this are investments in quality future employees.

Gary Green, Principal Ranfurly Primary School:

To be able to employ students who have a very very high skill set straight out of La Trobe University is very beneficial to schools as employers because the students will be ready to go straight into classrooms and teach lessons to a high degree of skill.

Dr Deborah Neal:

Seeing other teachers model exactly what they have been taught, you can’t buy that experience, you don’t get that on a practicum. This happens because we’re bringing two things together, we’re bringing the classroom, we’re bringing the theory and we’re modelling good practice. The outcome is pre-service teachers are not only employable but they hit the deck running.

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