Uni Bridges students graduate – video transcript 20/12/12

Narrator:

As 2013 draws to a close hundreds of thousands of secondary school students are celebrating year twelve graduation. But for one group of Bendigo Senior Secondary College students, graduation is especially momentous.

In a Victorian first, 32 students will be able to gain a place in La Trobe University science and health science courses, not on the basis of their Australian Tertiary Admission Rank(ATAR), but on the successful completion of Uni Bridges and the recommendation of their teachers.

Dr Carolyn Malkin:

These students have finished the 2 year Uni Bridges Program, they’ve gone through year 11 and 12 and now they stand at the threshold of potentially choosing to come and study at La Trobe.

Narrator:

Uni Bridges was designed to help break down some of the barriers that stop potential students from entering university.

Dr Carolyn Malkin:

So it’s a way of having a deep engagement with those schools and showing them the benefits of staying at school and transferring to university.

Cherie Fist:

It gives them confidence, when we take them out to the university they’re like ‘little ducklings’ following you around and by the end of halfway though year 11 they’re much more confident going up there, they’ll speak the lecturers, the lecturers are very open to the students coming up and contacting them.

Dr Malkin says the ATAR system, which helps university’s select new students according to academic merit, doesn’t necessarily predict success in higher education.

Dr Carolyn Malkin:

This is a way of really testing to see if whether if a school recommends that these students are ready to succeed and have succeeded at Uni Bridges that they are ready to be successful at university, and we’re prepared to give them a go based on that.

Kendall Pearson (Uni Bridges student):

The combination of maths, English and biology, they’ve been really beneficial in helping learn as an individual and helping everyone to understand the concepts and link them all together into one nice little package.

Narrator:

The program has been piloted by La Trobe University for the past two years at a number of schools in Bendigo and Northern Melbourne, and is to be expanded in 2014 supported by funding by the Commonwealth Government.

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