Boost for Curriculum Bridges Program – video transcript 19/8/13

Narrator:

The Federal government has announced a 1.3 million dollar funding boost for a program aimed at increasing the number of disadvantaged and regional students attending university. Senator for Victoria, Gavin Marshall announced a boost to the Curriculum Bridges program, which encourages secondary school students from Bendigo and North Melbourne to achieve in maths and science.

Senator Gavin Marshall:

I think its important that schools work with tertiary education to identify those kids that have the potential to go on, but otherwise wouldn’t if there wasn’t some intervention. So we are really excited about a program that helps identify kids that have the potential and help them fulfil that potential, and I think that’s a great result.

Narrator:

Senator Marshall toured the new state of the art La Trobe Rural Health School building seeing firsthand the kind of facilities that secondary school students could use during the Curriculum Bridges program. La Trobe Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President(Academic) Professor Jane Long, says the program began as a State government funded pilot study in late 2012, but will now be expanded from 3 to 12 schools in Bendigo and Melbourne.

Professor Jane Long:

We know that for a lot of students if they don’t have a background where parents and grandparents and so on have gone to university it may not be something they naturally aspire to, so we are losing a lot of talent potentially and we want to grab that talent and make sure that we can provide a great higher education at La Trobe. So Curriculum Bridges enables us to make contact with students in year 10, year 11 and year 12 and engage them in that really meaningful work.

Principal Dale Pearce:

It’s a powerful learning experience for the students because what it does it provides them alignment between different subjects they are studying, some theme work around that curing disease theme for us in our instance, but the opportunity to network with students from other schools but most importantly access to the support from La Trobe University, so being able to bring the students on campus, access to the university’s resources, access their staff expertise and really what that is doing is lifting the aspirations of the students. So it’s been a tremendous step forward for those kids.

Narrator:

For La Trobe University the programs expansion will provide more opportunities to consolidate strong partnerships with local communities and encourage more young people to consider the benefits of going to university.

Professor Jane Long:

We see ourselves very much not only as a great educational institution, but as a community resource where we want to work in strong partnership with secondary schools, with TAFE’s, with industry, government and community to ensure that that region in Victoria is extremely well served, and we think we can provide that service in higher education.

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