

14th October 2019

Inaugural STEM Awards allow regional schools to showcase their winning approach to learning

Riverina students and teachers have been handed a significant opportunity to showcase their excellence in STEM-based learning this week, having been invited to submit projects for consideration at the Inaugural SISP STEM Awards.

Riverina has been participating in the NSW Department of Education, STEM Industry in Schools Partnership (SISP) since **2019** and has thrived in the curriculum which encourages participation of regional students in activities that sharpen skills in a broad range of STEM disciplines.

SISP Schools include: Beelbangera Public School, Binya Public School, Coleambally Central School, Darlington Point Public School, Goolgowi Public School, Griffith Public School, Griffith East Public School, Griffith North Public School, Hanwood Public School, Lake Wyangan Public School, Leeton High School, Leeton Public School, Murrumbidgee High School - Griffith Site, Murrumbidgee High School - WADE Site, Narrandera High School, Narrandera Public School, Rankin Springs Public School, Tharbogang Public School, Yanco Agricultural High School, Yanco Public School, Yenda Public School, Yoogali Public School.

Rachel Whiting CEO of Regional Development Australia - Riverina said the SISP program has empowered students and their teachers to develop a solution-focused approach to learning and to innovate through collaboration.

“The SISP curriculum gives educators and students in our public schools a unique platform for learning and the resolve to excel in a future-driven program,” **Rachel Whiting RDA Riverina**

“Our students and teachers are clearly excited by the announcement of the Awards. The Awards will give all participants a chance to showcase their learning development and capabilities and to be acknowledged by their peers.”

Award entries will be accepted from projects in Science, Technology, Mathematics, Electronics, Robotics, Industrial and Engineering Technology, Mandatory Technology, Food and Textiles, Graphics, Information and Software Technology, and Marine and Aquaculture Sciences. There is also a category that rewards diversity and accessibility in STEM.

Rachel Whiting said the submission process will further expose students and teachers to meaningful processes such as collaboration, preparation, problem-solving and creation in STEM-related projects.

“The SISP philosophy is about building skills for life-long learning,” **Rachel Whiting** said.

“Preparing an innovative project for submission to these important Awards not only sharpens the skills of developing a solution to a problem, it builds students’ creative and inquisitive mindsets which will serve them well beyond their school-based learning years.”

“We are all looking forward to supporting our students and teachers in their project development and to seeing the finished products for submission to the Awards,” **Rachel Whiting** said.

The SISP STEM awards are now open for entry at www.stemawards.com.au and close on **1st November**.

The Riverina 2019 awards ceremony will be held on **November 12th** at **Griffith Regional Theatre** from **9:30am – 12pm**.

Contact: Cassandra Cadorin ilo@rdariverina.org.au To arrange an interview or photos