



NAMIG works with like providers to create a more coordinated experience of industry based activities and tours for schools.

Such partnerships link closely with the recent release of *Inspiring Australia: A National Strategy for Engagement with the Sciences* announced by Minister Kim Carr. The strategy makes a case for:

- Building networks and partnerships
- Being smarter in the way we use mainstream media
- Targeting young people and under-represented groups
- Tapping the potential of new media
- Supporting local action within a national framework.

In a separate but related recent announcement, Professor Peter Dowd, Executive Dean of the University of Adelaide Engineering Department, recently called for a more concerted effort to generate the quantity and quality of Mathematics and Science graduates from schools.

NAMIG's Concept2Creation program is not only well positioned with regard to these calls but is already utilising some innovative practices to achieve such outcomes.



## BAE Systems C2C Scholarships 2010

Friday 5 February was a significant milestone in the partnership between BAE Systems Australia and NAMIG. It marked the selection of the second group of recipients for tertiary scholarships. This year's recipients are:

- Thomas Schneider from Valley View Secondary School will commence a Bachelor of Engineering, Electronics & Communications at the University of South Australia,
- Michael Thomas from Riverton & Districts High School will undertake a Bachelor of Engineering, Mechatronics at the University of Adelaide, and
- Susen Sharma from Valley View Secondary School will commence a Diploma of Engineering, Electronics & Communications at the Regency Campus of TAFESA.

These students will now join the 2009 recipients in this rewarding scholarship program that not only provides \$4,500 for each year of their course but also paid work placement, mentoring and a supportive buddy from BAE staff.



The professional and pastoral support provided by BAE and NAMIG has already been validated as a significant strategy for enhancing the aspirations and transitions of northern suburbs students into tertiary courses.

It is hoped that other employers might consider this significant workforce development strategy. In addition to the identification of promising new recruits, the selection, mentoring and buddying components of the process provide additional opportunities for developing existing staff.

NAMIG congratulates BAE Systems on this initiative and welcomes the opportunity to discuss such models with other employers.

## Program Evaluation

Flinders University recently submitted the report on the evaluation of the Concept2Creation program in 2009. As part of this evaluation they not only collected participation data but conducted interviews and focus groups with students and teachers to gain greater insights into the impact of the program.

The report acknowledged that the program incorporates at least five of the six keys to encouraging greater numbers in science at school, as identified by Professor Pannizon from the Centre For Science for the 21<sup>st</sup>. Century. These are:

1. Developing career paths that are evident to students
2. Establishing solid, transferable curriculum
3. Creating appropriate, competency-based assessment
4. Acknowledging the importance of primary Science and Maths
5. Reinforcing the societal value of science to students
6. Developing a sense of identity that integrates science

The report also identified the following key outcomes that were valued by participants:

- A self awareness, particularly in relation to critical thinking, problem solving, communication, team work and organisational skills.
- Career Awareness, particularly of Advanced Manufacturing & Defence.
- Engagement in and appreciation of the Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths curriculum.

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It is great news that Heather Ridout, Director of the Australian Industry Group has accepted the invitation to become an ambassador for the Concept2Creation program. Heather's profile as a national industry leader and spokesperson will be invaluable in not only promoting the C2C brand but also in keeping NAMIG informed of emerging directions for industry. NAMIG prides itself upon being industry-led and Heather's presence will epitomize this critical feature of the NAMIG model.

**Coming Events** (for full info contact the NAMIG office)

Mon 10 May Induction New Teachers/Schools (pm)

Tues 18 May C2C+ Induction Day UniSA Mawson Lakes

Wed 19 May Nanotechnology & Manufacturing (pm)

Thurs 26 May Lean Manufacturing Workshop, GM Holden (full day)

Fri 29 Oct 9.00-11.00 am Annual Review, Mawson Centre, Mawson Lakes

Wed 10 Nov C2C Expo Golden Grove Arts & Recreation Centre

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Salisbury Business & Export Centre  
Innovation House West  
First Avenue  
Technology Park  
Mawson Lakes SA 5095

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**Getting The Conversation Going**

In excess of 60 people attended NAMIG's industry forum *Partnering To Deliver Our Future Workforce* at Central Districts Football Club on the 24 March.

His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, provided a comprehensive introduction for employers to consider why they need to recognise education as a significant means of developing their next generation of employees. Presentations from local employers then provided examples of a range of forms of engagement that they are using with education. Megan Lilly of the Australian Industry Group completed the presentations by introducing some considerations of the positive impact that this partnership can have on communities that are often disadvantaged in two-speed economies. Her suggestion that school engagement and retention is not achieved by 'nailing students to the seats' extended the challenge for industry to become more involved in enhancing education.

Healthy table discussion followed with participants identifying actions that will achieve greater engagement and topics that could be part of a future forum. These responses indicated that although busy, participants were supportive of NAMIG and a forum in September.

In the meantime, interested employers can seek more information from NAMIG's Industry Liaison Officer, Mr Bob Sloan on 0417 731 125 or bob@concept2creation.com.au



**Coopers Helping To Brew Interest in Concept2Creation**

School leaders had the opportunity to experience Advanced Manufacturing and Clean Technology applications by staging one of their C2C meetings at the Regency Park premises of Coopers Brewing Pty Ltd. After a robust discussion of operational and strategic aspects of the C2C program, leaders then undertook a tour of the site to appreciate the potential that such operations have for placing learning in context for teachers and students. However, this activity was not meant to create the expectation that all companies would be available for tours but rather to suggest that NAMIG might be able to facilitate a range of forms of engagement with industries that are acceptable to particular employers.

NAMIG thanks Coopers and Mr Tom Bullock for modeling one type of engagement that might occur with an industry partner.

**Featured Company: Les Brazier Special Vehicles (LBSV)**

LBSV are experts in the transport needs of the disabled and elderly, modifying vehicles for wheelchair access and providing modifications and products to assist in mobility for the disabled.

This company is a fine example that industry engagement with education that can be provided by companies of any size. Recently, a group of students from Riverton & Districts High School had an engaging hands-on experience of this vehicle modification business and the potential for pursuing career pathways in such areas. On another occasion, students from the Special Education class of Salisbury High School utilised a visit to appreciate industries that supported people with disabilities.

By combining these opportunities with active participation in the NAMIG Reference Group, LBSV is setting the pace in engagement as well as in business.



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