

## AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2018 GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

### DISCIPLINE

Mathematics Education

### RESEARCH AREAS

Digital Technologies in Mathematics Education  
Early Years  
STEM Education  
Pre-Service Teacher Education

► [experts.griffith.edu.au/academic/k.larkin](https://experts.griffith.edu.au/academic/k.larkin)

### BACKGROUND

Dr Kevin Larkin is a scholarly teacher and educational leader who, based on 30 years of school teaching and school leadership, and six years university teaching and leadership experience, influences, motivates and inspires our next generation of primary school teachers. His teaching philosophy is represented using an equation: positive relationships + innovative pedagogy + purposeful evaluation + sustained scholarship = maximum learning. Drawing upon his national and international publications and research, he has transformed how mathematics is taught. His passion for mathematics, combined with innovative teaching methods, creates positive relationships, improves success and retention, assists pre-service teachers to develop positive attitudes towards mathematics, and inspires them to become teachers who foster curiosity and independent learning. He is the inaugural GLTA Chapter Chair, for the Arts, Education and Law Group at Griffith University. Dr Larkin is a member of a number of research teams investigating: STEM education in early years education; mathematics education in primary and middle school contexts; and pre-service teacher mathematics education. He has published widely in national and international publications in the areas of mathematics education, digital technologies, early years STEM, higher education, and Activity Theory. He is a current editor of both the Mathematics Education Research Journal (MERJ) and the International Journal of Mathematics Teaching and Learning (IJMTL).

### IMPACT ON LEARNING & TEACHING

The award has acted as an external marker of what he always offered in the education space, providing recognition of the importance of higher education teaching and the importance of mathematics education for future primary school teachers. Dr Larkin feels that the award recognises that it is the quality of teaching that counts, not the position you hold. As a Senior Lecturer teaching undergraduates, he is particularly proud of his achievement, as most of the recipients over the past ten years were Professors or Associate Professors when they received the award. The award has increased interest in Kevin's pedagogy and is likely to expand opportunities beyond course level teaching. It has given him the opportunity to promote learning and teaching at Griffith for example continuing in role of Chapter Chair for the AEL Griffith Learning and Teaching Academy.

### IMPACT ON CAREER

Dr Larkin notes that the award is likely to form a strong component of an application for Associate Professor. It allows for his continued contribution to, and collaboration on, the Early Learning STEM Australia (STEM) Project led by Professor Tom Lowrie of the University of Canberra. In the short amount of time since receiving the award, Dr Larkin has received an invitation to be on Linkage grant application with a learning and teaching focus. It has been a wonderful acknowledgement of his 37 years of service to education in Australia and internationally in both primary education and university education. He is involved in mentoring colleagues at the school, group and University Level and has been the invited guest speaker at university functions where he can communicate his vision for learning and teaching. The award has also increased Dr Larkin's public engagement opportunities and he has been promoted by radio, in newspapers, and through educational publications in learning and teaching. His new international collaborations in learning and teaching include those with Potsdam University and Schwäbisch Gmünd University in Germany and University of Victoria, Canada.

## DOCTOR KEVIN LARKIN



### CURRENT ROLE

Dr Kevin Larkin: EdD (Griffith), M Ed Studies (Griffith), M Ed Leadership (ACU), Grad Dip Arts (ACU), B Ed (ACU), DipTeach (Kelvin Grove CAE).

Kevin is a Senior Lecturer (Mathematics Education) at Griffith University.

Kevin is inaugural Arts Education and Law Group Chapter Chair, of the Griffith Learning and Teaching Academy.

### WHAT THE AWARD HAS MEANT

Visibility for mathematics education  
| Affirmation of the role of undergraduate teaching |  
Career Progression

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- 2018 AAUT Teacher of the Year;
- 2018 AAUT Award for Teaching Excellence – Behavioural and Social Science;
- 2016 Griffith University Teacher of the Year;
- 2016 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching – AEL;
- 2013-2016 PVC Academic – Commendations for Teaching;
- 2015 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching – AEL – Highly Commended;
- 2015 AEL – Teaching and Learning Citation;
- 2008 Griffith Awards for Excellence in Teaching – Casual Academic Award.