

AAUT VIDEO SERIES:

2018 EARLY CAREER TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENT:

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Hello, my name is Christian Moro, and I received the AAUT Teaching Excellence Award back in 2018. Working towards this award so early in my career did present a fantastic goal. I'd been a school teacher, and moved into the university sector, which was very new and different in how we taught and managed classes and provided curriculum. Also, after years of dealing with children, I suddenly had classes, full of adults, but nonetheless, some of the practices that I've evolved in my time working secondary science classrooms did translate relatively successfully.

MY JOURNEY OF WINNING THE EARLY CAREER AWARD

And I received a citation for outstanding contribution to student learning in about my second year out. From that, I had evidence that some parts of my instruction resonated well for student learning, but I still needed to refine and adjust my education strategies. This involves a lot of reflections peer reviews, evaluations, and being sure to utilise evaluation and feedback to make my subjects and sessions better each semester.

As such, the benefits of working towards this award, the Teaching Excellence, was that I was able to then collect a wide variety of evidence regarding what was conducive to learning and what was not. I also engaged in a stack of educational research, utilize technology enhanced learning strategies.

KEY ASPECTS OF YOUR TEACHING BEEN RECOGNISE FOR

And in addition to the teaching, I am a scientist in the field of physiology and did find that continuing my laboratory based pursuits helped provide that command to the field feeling where I was able to still advanced the discipline, as well as teaching do it.

So, for a few years, I stood out to collect as much evidence from the effectiveness of my teaching practices as possible. This was genuinely helpful. It also meant that this reflection on teaching left me with a highly refined and, hopefully, thought through curriculum, which lead to the receipt of future awards.

SINCE RECEIVING THE EARLY CAREER AWARD IN 2018, HOW HAS IT IMPACTED ON YOUR CAREER

So, since the citation and teaching excellence, have received the Australian Financial Review Higher Education Award, the International reimagined award or the old warden Education Award is to be called the UK is David Jordan Teaching Award, and then a number of extra awards from societies and non-profit organisations from Australia and the world. And many of these do come with some prize money and funding which has been hugely beneficial to continue that, that pace and curriculum development in the long run.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ASPIRING APPLICANTS

So, my recommendations are to start early. It took me a number of years to collect the evidence needed to meet all the criteria: University evaluations, attendance at my lectures, the number of interactions on our course learning management system, student results, and even things such as hearing back from graduates, or people in the workplace, about how my interventions that helped them in their future careers. Focus groups, Research survey data, peer reviews, and a lot more.

There's a lot of evidence we can collect and there was even a time when I had the high level invited staff to peer review nearly every lecture in a semester and that really helped with feedback to how I could refine and adjust everything so it was the best I could make it.

The evidence helps and is critical to ensuring that what we're doing works, and that we have evidence to show that we're making a difference to student learning, and the overall student experience.

CONCLUSION

So please apply these awards are amazing and I'm so glad that we had them in Australia, and of course feel free to contact me if you'd like to chat about any of this, and good luck.

AAUT CONTACT DETAILS

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[Associate Professor Christian Moro](#) Mentor profile

For any further questions, please contact the Awards Team aaud@rmit.edu.au