

AAUT VIDEO SERIES:

2018 NEVILLE BONNER AWARD FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION RECIPIENT:

PROFESSOR SUSAN PAGE, UTS

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

I'm Susan Page. I'm Aboriginal Australian, my kinship is sent through my father's family. I'm recording this presentation from Ngarigo country and pay my respects to the traditional custodians of knowledge with this land and recognize that this will always be Aboriginal land.

I started my career as a nurse midwife, but at heart, I have probably always been a teacher, whether teaching a new mother about feeding her baby, preparing engaging tutorials for students, or working with my colleagues to develop indigenous curriculum. The transformative possibilities of teaching have been a common thread to my career.

MY JOURNEY OF WINNING THE NEVILLE BONNER AWARD

Our Neville Bonner award was based on our indigenous graduate attribute work at UTS. Our work of nurturing indigenous PhD students in the Center for the Advancement of Indigenous Knowledges and a scholarship in leadership aligned with our work.

From 2015 to 2018, I led Indigenous Graduate Attributes (IGA) project at UTS with my colleagues, as you see that, Michelle Trudgett and Gawaian Bodkin-Andrews, IGA project. Our application was very much based on the synergies of each of us brought to the IGA work and to our board of working CAIK, and our drive, our shared drive, our dream, really to ensure enhanced outcomes for Indigenous peoples in higher education through recognition of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.

In the mid 2000s, in the early part of my career, I was awarded at faculty, a University Teaching Award, with my colleague Sally Farrington, collaborative work, so we have a theme. On the strength of those awards, Sally and I applied twice Neville Bonner awards, way back then in the early 2000s. But we were unsuccessful. I wish I would know then it's not uncommon to apply multiple times before being successful.

Each time you apply, you have more evidence and likely more mature set of activities. Much more recently, a colleague from UTS, Learning and Teaching Center at the Institute for Media and Learning, first encouraged us to apply for the 2018 Neville Bonner award, and then really championed the application. We could not have completed the application without her or the generous people who wrote for us and appreciated our work.

KEY ASPECTS OF YOUR TEACHING BEEN RECOGNISE FOR

Here's just some sort of brief examples of the kind of work we did. So, through the Indigenous Graduate Attribute project, one of the things, as many things we did, was to develop a fully online Indigenous Studies subject, which not only quickly grew from having just under 40 students enrolled, to begin with, to enrolling over 500 Students twice a year. We also got very strong student evaluations.

Our application is also based on advanced technologies and postgraduate research student development, so that just meant that we developed a suite of activities to build the confidence of our growing cohort of indigenous and non-Indigenous HDR students, including inviting leading indigenous scholars to seminars, supporting conference presentations and most popular writing retreats.

We really value our scholarship in our learning and teaching work, not only to share our work but to contribute to the growth of the Indigenous Studies teaching area. Part of our application we drew on published a series of six papers that came out of our Indigenous Graduate Attribute work, including a pedagogical framework for embedding indigenous content into

curriculum, and a survey instrument for evaluating such curriculum. This is a very brief. There are a lot of activities in between those three points.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ASPIRING APPLICANTS

I remember, some years ago, encouraging an indigenous colleague to apply for an award, and it was clear that they were really reluctant to put themselves forward. They didn't want a big-note.

Applying for those awards though, awarded for me, it's not really about being a big-note, or standing out. It's about recognising the outstanding work that indigenous teachers and scholars do, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. And it's about the work that we do to open up, not just to accommodate indigenous epistemologies in the curriculum, and in their institutions as a whole. That deserves an award.

I would really encourage indigenous scholars and professional staff and teams to apply for the Neville Bonner or other awards. We bring critical perspectives to our work, which are often not well understood and award helps to raise consciousness about the value, creativity, and the rigor of the work that we do, and benefits those who come along behind us. Thank you.

AAUT CONTACT DETAILS

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[Professor Susan Page](#) Mentor profile

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