



IMS Global Learning Consortium Announces Australian Learning Impact Award Winners

University of Wollongong, Schools Online Curriculum Services, and The Learning Federation are named finalists for the LIA 2008 global competition

Lake Mary, Florida – 16 October 2007 – The IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC) today announced the results of the Australian run-up to the 2008 Learning Impact Awards. The winners were selected last week in conjunction with the !DEA 2007 conference held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. !DEA 2007 was sponsored by the Australian Department of Education, Science, and Training (DEST) and the University of Southern Queensland.

The Learning Impact Awards (aka LIAs) recognize the use of technology to support and enhance learning, featuring the highest levels of innovation, adoption, and learning impact. The LIA awards are unique in that they recognize the use of technology in context. Nominations include not only information about the technology, but how it is used by an implementing organization. The eight rating criteria in the LIAs require evidence, which can only be achieved in context. In Australia, a set of ten finalists were chosen to exhibit at !DEA 2007. A panel of three expert judges rated the entries.

The top rated entry in Australia was the *Online Learning Environment* from the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong, supported by the Learning Edge and Blackboard Vista. The first runner-up was the *Schools Online Curriculum Services (SOCS)* implemented by the Department of Education and Training Western Australia, supported by Oracle iLearning. The second runner-up was *The Learning Federation*, supported by Curriculum Corporation. All three of these winners will be invited to attend as finalists at the 2008 global competition held at the IMS Learning Impact conference, May 12-15, in Austin, Texas (For more information on the Learning Impact conference see <http://www.imsglobal.org/learningimpact2008/agenda.html>).

“We are very pleased with the high quality entries and overall participation in the first Australian LIA run-up, and very proud of the winners,” remarked Kerry Blinco, e-Framework and Standards Manager, Link Affiliates, University of Southern Queensland.. “We feel that the Learning Impact program helps us to focus on the high expectations we have for the use of technology in learning and research. It is also a very effective way for Australia to participate in and be recognized on an international stage.”

In addition to the Australian awards, there is a regional competition in New Zealand, to be held November 7-9, 2007 in conjunction with the IMS Global Meeting sponsored by the New Zealand Ministry of Education (see <http://www.imsglobal.org/NZmeeting2007.html> for additional information). Nominations are also currently being accepted for the global LIA competition through to the end of the calendar year. To learn more about the Learning Impact Awards or to submit an application see <http://www.imsglobal.org/learningimpact2008/awards.html>.

About the University of Southern Queensland

The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) is a young, dynamic University that offers award programs at undergraduate and postgraduate level on-campus, off-campus or online. USQ is regional, flexible and international.

USQ has campuses in Toowoomba, on the Fraser Coast and in Springfield and also operates study centres in Europe, Africa and Asia and serves a large number of students through their award-winning external studies program. USQ has more than 26,000 enrolments and students

who study undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the areas of Arts, Business, Education, Engineering and Surveying and Sciences and has an enviable reputation for producing job ready graduates who are highly sought after in the workplace in Australia and overseas.

USQ is committed to excellence in fundamental research as well as the development of innovative technologies for the future. USQ manages a number of projects sponsored by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) under the Systemic Infrastructure Initiative (SII) as part of the Commonwealth Government's Backing Australia's Ability – An Innovation Action Plan for the Future (BAA) including the:

- RUBRIC Project
- e-Framework Project
- ICE-RS Project
- PILIN Project
- FRED Project

At IDEA 2007, these same projects were showcased with the final day resulting in the public launch of the RUBRIC Toolkit (an output of the RUBRIC Project) which will provide an invaluable aid to organisations implementing institutional repositories.

About IMS Global Learning Consortium (IMS GLC)

IMS GLC is a global, nonprofit, member organization that strives to enable the growth and impact of learning technology in the education and corporate learning sectors worldwide. IMS GLC members provide leadership in shaping and growing the learning industry through community development of standards, promotion of innovation, and research into adoption practices. For more information, including the world's most comprehensive set of learning technology interoperability standards, information on the annual Learning Impact conference and awards program, and free community resources for learning technology leaders, visit www.imsglobal.org.

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