



MEDIA RELEASE

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ELEVEN SCHOLARSHIPS WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY CONVENTION BUREAU

Eleven scholarship winners announced today have the potential to deliver more than \$50 million worth of convention business to Western Australia, according to the Perth Convention Bureau.

The winners were today presented with professional development scholarships worth a total of \$60,000 at a breakfast function in the Perth Town Hall.

Scholarships have been awarded annually since 1999 by the Bureau. This year the program was expanded to include metropolitan Perth's five universities - UWA, Murdoch, Notre Dame, Edith Cowan and Curtin.

A City of Perth sponsored scholarship worth \$10,000 and open to representatives of not-for-profit organisations in WA was won by Ms Carol Hanlon, the founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Textile Clothing, Footwear Resource Centre Inc.

Ms Hanlon is also the founding manager of the Belmont Business Enterprise Centre Inc.

She plans to use her scholarship to attend the 2nd International Conference of Fashion Incubators in America later this year where she will explore the potential for Perth to host the conference in 2011.

Hosting the conference would provide a boost to Perth's growing reputation as a leading fashion design centre. The aim of the international network of fashion incubators is to nurture, inspire and provide practical assistance to aspiring designers around the world.

A total of 10 scholarships worth \$5,000 each were presented to two applicants from each of the five local universities.

The scholarship recipients are:

University of Western Australia - Professor Anya Waite, Deputy Head of the School of Environmental Engineering; and Dr Paul Maginn, Program Co-ordinator for Urban Planning in the School of Earth and Environment.

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Murdoch University - Associate Professor Lance Fung, School of Information Technology; and Mr Bradley Norman, Adjunct Research lecturer with the School of Biological Science and Biotechnology.

Curtin University of Technology - Dr Zhonghua Sun, Senior Lecturer, Discipline of Medical Imaging, Department of Imaging and Applied Physics; and Dr Caroline Fleay, Lecturer in the Faculty of Humanities.

Edith Cowan University - Associate Professor Adam Osseiran, Director of the Australian National Networked TeleTest Facility within the School of Engineering; and Dr Trevor Cullen, Head of Journalism, School of Communications and Arts.

University of Notre Dame Australia - Ms Rashmi Watson, Senior Lecturer, School of Education, and Professional Development Co-ordinator (Teaching and Learning); and Associate Professor Richard Berlach, Associate Dean (Teaching), School of Education.

Perth Convention Bureau Managing Director Christine McLean said that this year's group of scholarship winners was hoping to secure conventions that would deliver more than \$50 million in direct delegate expenditure to the State.

"The scholarship program was launched in 1999 to assist in the professional development of people actively involved with not for profit organisations," she said.

The program has so far been responsible for generating convention business worth an estimated \$46.33 million to the Western Australian economy.

"This is a win-win initiative that benefits everyone," Ms McLean added. "We've been delighted with the response to our initiative this year to specifically offer two scholarships to each of the local universities."

The West Australian is a supporting sponsor of the scholarships program.

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