

D2L Awards Local Educators for Leading Blended Learning Initiatives

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Melbourne, Australia, August 27, 2015—D2L, the EdTech company that created Brightspace, today presented its 2015 Excellence Awards at the Ignite Asia Pacific (APAC) conference on the Gold Coast. The awards recognise institutions in the region that have used the Brightspace platform to deliver learning experiences that are innovative, collaborative, or have made an extraordinary impact on learning outcomes.

This year's APAC winners are Queensland's Saint Stephen's College, Victoria University and Singapore Management University, which all demonstrated exemplary results in student engagement, staff efficiency and social communication.

"The Brightspace Excellence Award winners have delivered platforms that drive self-paced, catered learning which advances both teachers and students beyond the limits set by traditional education methods," said Marlon Herft, Director Asia Pacific, D2L. "In doing so, they have created environments relevant to the digital age where teaching and learning surpasses classrooms and lecture theatres, and fosters better outcomes by enabling more resources, insights and predictability than ever before."

Saint Stephen's College was recognised for being a front-runner in taking a structured, well-planned, organisation-wide drive towards blended learning. The school embodies the true value of flexibility and has made huge strides in creating engaging experiences for its students. It currently offers more than 160 courses via its Brightspace-based learning platform, all of which were carefully developed to be simple to use and allow students to progress at their own pace, while giving teachers a level of visibility to ensure effective early intervention.

Victoria University is using the Brightspace platform to help elevate student engagement and first-year retention levels. By triangulating the use of Intelligent Agents, the User Progress tool and the Attendance tool within the Brightspace platform, the University gets a clearer picture of student progress and behavior. This enables instructors to better support students who may be at risk. Victoria University's educators also benefit from shorter assessment setup time, which has been reduced from four hours to 20 minutes per semester, and can share resources to maximise productivity.

Singapore Management University has harnessed the power of big data and analytics to transform teaching and learning in higher education. Using the learning analytics capabilities of Brightspace, the University gains deeper and actionable insights into students' learning progress, challenges and behaviours. This enables instructors to proactively identify at-risk students throughout the course and devise intervention strategies to improve performance. The institute's successful implementation of Brightspace has led it to be honoured on CIO100, Asia's annual index that recognises the continent's top strategic enterprise IT initiatives.