



In2science

AWARDS 2023

Thursday 14 December
6.00pm - 8.00pm
Science Gallery, Melbourne
in2science.org.au



Tonight we will recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements, contributions, and STEM engagement outcomes of In2science peer mentoring program participants.

Throughout 2023, In2science has supported STEM education in classrooms across 57 schools, reaching over 3,000 students. This evening, In2science will highlight exceptional examples of STEM engagement from across the program.

The 2023 In2science Awards are proudly sponsored by:

TOYOTA



SCHEDULE

6.00 Arrival and drinks

6.30 Welcome by:

- Dr Gabby Goldberg (Program Director)
- Hon Prof John Brumby AO (In2science Chair)
- Dr Flora Hui (Toyota Community Trust Director)

6.45 Presentation of awards and speeches

7.15 Refreshments

8.00 Close of the 2023 In2science Awards



MENTOR SUPPORT TEACHER AWARD FINALISTS

Amy Devereaux

*Matthew Flinders Girls
Secondary College*

In the first year of running the In2science program at Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College, Amy has been a wonderful support for her mentor, Jolene, and shared her enthusiasm for the In2science program with her colleagues. The way she has embraced the program has been outstanding and a testament to how she provides opportunities to her students. Through Amy, Jolene learnt how being a mentor to students is to be “a source of inspiration to boost their confidence and motivation to reach their goals.” What a brilliant example and role model Amy has been!

Penny Hale

Templestowe College

Penny has been a great supporter of the In2science program over many years, having hosted nine mentors! She has welcomed our mentors and included them in her classroom seamlessly, involving them in activities and inviting them on excursions. Penny has helped to facilitate the growth of relationships between our mentors and her students, allowing them to have discussions around further education and future career opportunities in STEM. Without teachers like Penny inviting our mentors into their classrooms, the In2science program would not exist. Thank you, Penny, for your ongoing support.

Steve Kuruc

South Oakleigh College

Steve has been a long supporter of the In2science program and has promoted the growth and development of not only his students, but also In2science mentors. He has worked closely with mentor Jaidyn across many semesters to create and launch an after school STEM Club. Jaidyn has said that “by allowing me to facilitate and run the club, Steve has helped me discover my own teaching style which is in a practical setting, where I can connect with students through our project work - rather than through small talk during curriculum studies.” Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support, Steve!

Caitlyn Leversha

Ballarat High School

Caitlyn has been developing student interest in In2science over many years and is continuously encouraging students to sign up. In 2023, she did an amazing job and a record number of 15 Ballarat High School students were matched with eMentors, many of whom participated throughout the entire year. Caitlyn is active with her students and helps them to communicate and engage with their eMentors, and her dedication to the program is an inspiration.

Awarded to a teacher that provided an exceptionally supportive learning environment for mentors and students

Loan Luong-Nguyen

Westall Secondary College

As a long-time supporter of the program, it's been a delight working with Loan at Westall Secondary College. Acting as our point of contact for many years now, Loan works tirelessly to drive success in the classroom, and recognises the extraordinary value of having a university student acting as a mentor to her students. Loan has consistently taken on In2science mentors in her own classroom as well as extolled the virtues of the program to her fellow teachers. A passionate educator and a great mentor herself, she takes on all of her responsibilities and then some. Thank you, Loan, for all that you do!

Kristen Raine

Maffra Secondary College

Kristen inspired over 30 Maffra Secondary College students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 to join up to In2science this year. As well as encouraging her students to take this opportunity, she supported them in their sessions and helped them to overcome any issues they had. Kristen also consistently communicated with the eMentors. She encouraged the eMentors by expressing how much the sessions meant to her students and thanking them for this opportunity. Everyone was very touched by her words. Thank you Kristen for your ongoing support of In2science!

Michelle Sanders

Footscray High School

Michelle has been one of In2science's biggest supporters and has worked with us since 2018. In that time, Michelle has hosted 14 mentor placements herself, and consistently encouraged her fellow teachers to take on mentors. It's not surprising then that Footscray High School has had 44 placements since 2018, largely due to Michelle's dedication to the program and the cause. Michelle's friendly nature has mentors feeling welcome, supported, and with a sense of fun in the classroom, making it a fantastic placement for everyone. 44 placements down, let's go for 50!





SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AWARD FINALISTS

Epping Secondary College

Epping Secondary College has been an amazing supporter of the In2science program since 2018, having hosted 30 mentors! Over this time, our mentors have inspired approximately 660 Epping SC students! This year's teachers, Kristen Healey and Sean Loffman, hosted five mentors between them. In their classrooms, our mentors were encouraged to share their knowledge and insights regarding topics being taught but also talk about further education and career paths in STEM, even assisting students to select their subjects for next year. Thank you, Epping Secondary College, for your continued support. We look forward to working with you next year and beyond.

Maffra Secondary College

Maffra Secondary College has been a strong supporter of In2science since 2016. Over the last 8 years, there has been consistent growth in the number of eMentee applications. Teachers at the school have worked along with Kristen Raine, our key connection at the school, to promote In2science and encourage their students to sign up. We look forward to what the future brings with Maffra Secondary College!

Mill Park Secondary College

Mill Park Secondary College has been involved with the In2science program since the beginning and have consistently had multiple mentor placements each year. We thank Mill Park Secondary College for building confidence in each of our mentors through their placements and empowering them to develop as STEM communicators to the next generation. The passion and dedication to the program shown by the teachers at this school is why this work is able to continue to have a positive impact on the students.

Pakenham Secondary College

Pakenham Secondary College is a new school to In2science this year. While they are short on experience with In2science, they are not short on passion and enthusiasm, and in their very first semester took on three mentors. From a coordinator's side, working with the Pakenham SC staff has been a breeze, and mentors have consistently left positive feedback. It's a new relationship but definitely one that will continue into the future.

Awarded to a school community that demonstrated outstanding engagement and connection with the In2science program

Warragul Regional College

Warragul Regional College joined In2science this year after the In2science team connected with teachers from this school during the Mid-Year Community and Partnerships Expo. Straight away, Warragul Regional College signed up and requested eMentors for the coming semester. This is likely to be a record for the fastest introduction of a new school to In2science yet, all thanks to the dedication and passion of science teacher Louise Bastow. We look forward to working with Warragul Regional College for many years to come!

Warrnambool College

Warrnambool College embraced the In2science program from the start and were the first school in south-west regional Victoria to run in-class placements. This enthusiasm has only strengthened across the year, with five placements in various classes. The teachers are all keen to have a mentor in their class and go above and beyond to make it a great experience for their students and the mentors. Warrnambool College tries hard to match the mentors' areas of study with appropriate classes and are flexible with mentor availability – it has been a phenomenal start to the relationship!

Westall Secondary College

Westall Secondary College has been a part of the In2science program for many years, and has always been a wonderful school for our mentors to work in. The diversity in every classroom presents a unique opportunity for our mentors to grow and develop their professional and interpersonal skills, with the support of highly passionate and engaged teachers. We are grateful for Westall's consistent communication and commitment to creating so many fantastic opportunities for our mentors. Thank you, Westall SC!





OUTSTANDING MENTEE

STUDENT AWARD FINALISTS

Anthony Boag

Warragul Regional College

Anthony's commitment to eMentoring is extremely impressive, especially for a young person. He communicated well with his eMentor Nasif and engaged with the content both during and after their sessions. Anthony's teacher, Louise Bastow, said, "Anthony used the opportunity to extend his learning and learn more about his interest area. He engaged enthusiastically." Well done on a great semester, Anthony!

Mary Chambers

Virtual School Victoria

Mary's connection with eMentor Jess was evident from day one. Mary's teacher, Janine, says, "Mary has been remarkable and has done so well with Jess. She felt very accepted and found it easy to relate to Jess from the beginning of the program." Mary's inquisitive nature and desire for learning made her an exceptional mentee for Jess. Keep it up, Mary, and don't let anything hold you back!

Sarah Chea

Westall Secondary College

Sarah's involvement in the In2science program will have a lasting impression on her mentor, Utkarsh. Sarah's passion for learning really stood out and her desire to continually increase her understanding is a commendable trait. She discussed her future goals with Utkarsh, who then worked hard to provide relatable examples to enhance Sarah's STEM learning. Utkarsh says, "On my last day, Sarah gave me a card, which was undoubtedly the sweetest present I have ever received. It was a hand-decorated card that was simply beautiful. She was a really fun student to be around." Never lose your inquisitive and kind nature, Sarah!

Indigo Lothian

Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College

Indigo's mentor at Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College, Jolene, was very impressed by Indigo's determined attitude during the semester. Indigo was keen to learn more about Jolene's degree and life after secondary school. Jolene says, "Indigo was engaged throughout my placement. She was an effective leader and communicator within the group. She shared her learning with her peers." Well done on a fantastic semester, Indigo!

Awarded to a student that demonstrated extraordinary engagement with their In2science mentor and STEM learning

Lily Marshall

Ballarat High School

Lily's eMentor, Danni, has nothing but wonderful things to say about her eMentee. Not only is Lily intelligent, she is also a very kindhearted person. Danni sums it up best: "From the moment I first met her, it was evident that Lily possesses a strong sense of self-determination. Throughout our mentoring sessions, she consistently displayed clarity in her goals and aspirations. She not only brings out the best in herself but also actively seeks opportunities to uplift those around her." We are very proud to have you in our program, Lily!

Clancy Redpath

Williamstown High School

Josh mentored Clancy at Williamstown High School and summed up the experience like this: "Clancy's healthy skepticism and curious nature combined with her sharp wit and critical thinking skills makes her an excellent young scientist. She instantly absorbs unit content and takes an interest in topics far above her year level. Clancy repeatedly demonstrates problem-solving as well as practical skills that would absolutely translate into high-quality scientific work should she choose to pursue a career in STEM."

Ella Regan

Williamstown High School

Ella's mentor at Williamstown High School, Josh, has these positive words to say: "Ella always brings a polite, motivated, respectful attitude to class and engages with her teacher, peers, and In2science mentor in ways that make the classroom an even better place to learn. She is a quiet yet hard-working, high-achieving student who consistently endeavours to exceed expectations by asking thought-out questions and doing the best work she can. These qualities make Ella an ideal student and a superb role model for other students."

Charlie Still

Maffra Secondary College

Charlie was an enthusiastic and engaged mentee during his sessions with eMentor Mosh. Charlie has a positive energy that influences and inspires those around him. He is attentive, curious, and always willing to learn. Charlie actively contributed in all sessions and was never a passive observer. Mosh sums it up nicely: "Charlie's overall impact on the mentoring experience was outstanding and is truly deserving of recognition and acknowledgment!" We couldn't agree more!



OUTSTANDING MENTEE STUDENT AWARD FINALISTS

Jesaiah Tofa

Reservoir High School

Jesaiah is a naturally curious student and is always asking thoughtful questions. They were always ready for an insightful conversation with their mentor at Reservoir High School. Their mentor says, “Jesaiah took the opportunity to ask questions and challenge my responses. From course content to future aspirations, they were eager to discuss and take initiative. They encouraged others to get involved in discussions.” Keep up the great work, Jesaiah!

Simone Turley-Brittain

Ballarat High School

Simone started out as a quiet student but she has blossomed during her eMentoring sessions with eMentor Danni, becoming more confident and inquisitive during the journey. Simone’s interest in a range of topics allowed her to come prepared for each session, writing a list of questions for Danni to answer. Danni says, “Simone’s remarkable qualities extend beyond academics. Simone embodies patience, kindness, and a profound depth of character, attributes that will undoubtedly guide her in any future endeavors.” Congratulations on a wonderful semester, Simone!







STEM CHAMPION

MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Destiny Beling

The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Science (Immunology)

Mentored at Pakenham Secondary College

Destiny worked with the same class at Pakenham Secondary College for both semesters this year, and her attitude towards STEM education and her initiative to dive in wherever she can and challenge herself in the class is inspirational. It's no wonder the kids absolutely adore her and quite literally jump for joy when she's back in the class. Destiny should be incredibly proud of the work she's done on challenging biases about what STEM really is, and for giving students the confidence to think about taking up STEM studies in the future.

Arlo Fehring

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Engineering (Robotics and Mechatronics)/Bachelor of Computer Science (Data Science)

Mentored at Bayswater Secondary College

An outspoken advocate for STEM and its many outlets for innovation, creativity, and sustainability, Arlo has been an exceptional champion for STEM in the In2science program. Since joining in 2022, Arlo has worked consistently with In2science veteran Amanda Dales at Bayswater Secondary College, and always finds exciting ways to bring their university experience into the classroom for students to see first-hand. From tinkering with electronics to showing off games they have built, Arlo never ceases to inspire students on their STEM journeys, and demonstrates how finding your passion and getting involved are all you need to catapult yourself into a fulfilling STEM career. Great work, Arlo!



Awarded to a university mentor who showed outstanding initiative in promoting STEM to their student mentees

Jaidyn Gluskie

RMIT University

Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) (Honours)

Mentored at South Oakleigh College

Jaidyn has built a strong connection and rapport with the students at South Oakleigh College over many mentoring placements. His supporting teacher, Steve Kuruc, says, "Jaidyn drove our STEM Club and made it great for the students attending. Jaidyn developed a fan base! He worked with us above and beyond my expectations." The STEM Club has seen the students make a cordless vacuum cleaner and learn about how design and engineering principles work together, all thanks to Jaidyn's commitment and passion for mentoring. Well done, Jaidyn!

Veda Mileva

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Biomedicine

Mentored at Epping Secondary College

Veda is such an asset to the In2science team. She was a standout in her initial interview and during training, and has continued to go from strength to strength. Veda has completed two placements with the same class after the teacher requested that she stay on for the whole year. This speaks volumes about her contribution. Veda's classroom teacher, Kristen Healey, said, "Veda has continued to be a valuable member of the class and has been particularly insightful for students as the Year 10s picked their future pathways and researched possible careers." Well done Veda! You really are a STEM champion.

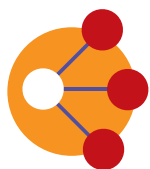
Joshua Watkins

Deakin University

Bachelor of Biomedical Science (Molecular Life Sciences)

Mentored at Williamstown High School

Josh made an instant impact on his class at Williamstown High School. His supervising teacher, Jenny, noted that Josh "has a passion for mentoring others and is genuinely dedicated to helping students succeed, which was clearly evident in his interactions with all students." This passion, and his enthusiasm for STEM, inspired the students he worked with. Josh brought in his own microscope and rocks to run master classes, using his advanced knowledge to question and extend the students. Josh also confidently presented at Banyule Nillumbik Tech School's Student Ambassador Day and shared his insights on studying at university. An outstanding first semester of mentoring!



CONNECTION

MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Zoë Brittain

Deakin University

PhD (Marine Humanities)

Mentored at Warrnambool College

Zoë shared her experiences of overseas travel to quickly connect with the students at Warrnambool College, showing them a side of university studies that they hadn't considered. Her ability to communicate her complex PhD research to the class earned her the beloved nickname 'Seaweed Lady', which demonstrated the students' care for and connection to Zoë. Zoë is passionate about showing the students what they are capable of and the various opportunities they could have growing up in regional Victoria. Her teacher, Paul Braithwaite, commended her "enthusiasm and ability to engage with the students" and noted that she "wasn't just a bystander." Well done, Zoë!

Mamatha Hanuma Raju

RMIT University

PhD (Applied Chemistry)

Mentored at Williamstown High School

Mamatha has such a kind and comforting nature, it makes everyone she talks to immediately feel at ease. Mamatha's class at Williamstown High School was filled with lots of boisterous and energetic students. Despite this, Mamatha's professional but friendly approach to mentoring has not only improved the class' grades, but also fostered great relationships, with some students expressing how much they missed Mamatha on the days she wasn't there and asking her to come in more often. Mamatha really made a difference to these students.

Max Marchesan

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology)/

Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)

Mentored at Antonine College and Bundoora Secondary College

Max is a very dedicated and enthusiastic mentor who has completed three placements... so far! His classroom teachers consistently comment that Max has a friendly and approachable nature that makes it easy for him to connect with students. He is patient and takes the time to sit with students and work through any difficulties they are having, and he is also happy to have conversations about their interests. Max is a wonderful role model, showing students what they can achieve with some hard work and dedication. He also connects easily with his fellow mentors, even assisting with training new applicants. We are lucky to have you, Max, inspiring the next generation of STEM superstars!



Awarded to a university mentor who consistently and authentically connected with students in the classroom

Hannah Mikkelson

The University of Melbourne

Master of Science (Environmental Science)

Mentored at Maribyrnong College

Hannah has worked with her Maribyrnong College class for two semesters in a row and has built strong, open, and respectful relationships with her teacher and the class. The students love having her around and aren't afraid to bring her into the action or throw her in the deep end. Thankfully, Hannah isn't afraid of either! If students need a hand with their classwork or are just curious about what it's like being an environmental scientist, Hannah's got the answers!

Utkarsh Ranjan

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Software)

Mentored at Westall Secondary College

Checking in with Utkarsh was a highlight of Coordinator Zach's week, as it usually involved a story around one of the students whom Utkarsh had given a challenge to. These challenges ranged from calculating the area of a circle and subtracting the area of a set of equilateral triangles, to exploring Einstein's theory of special relativity - all in a trigonometry class! It was these highly entertaining stories that made one thing perfectly clear: Utkarsh has a natural affinity for connecting with the students in the class and encouraging them to go beyond the curriculum and find something they are passionate about. Well done, Utkarsh!





DEDICATION MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Fatima Ganatra

La Trobe University

Graduate Certificate in Public Health

Mentored at Roxburgh College and Epping Secondary College

Fatima is a very dedicated mentor. Her first placement with In2science was challenging and Fatima worked hard to find different ways to connect with the students. Fatima took the approach of presenting about the work she was completing at university through slideshows and Kahoot! quizzes, which were a big success with engaging the students. We are very proud of Fatima for the dedication she showed this class of students. Fatima was just as successful in her second placement, where the students were very excited to learn about her work at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (although they did assume she worked at NASA!)

Ashley Herrod

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) (Professional) (Biomedical)

Mentored at Westall Secondary College and Narre Warren South P-12 College

Ashley has been an amazing mentor, showcasing a unique determination and willingness to get involved. Ashley took on two separate placements, at two schools, and has independently been nominated by both of her classroom teachers. It is plain to see why, with her action-oriented approach to mentoring. During class, Ashley immediately dives into working with students, and makes a considered effort to engage with each and every student. As her host teacher, Luke Goss at Narre Warren South P-12 College, said, "Ashley took an interest in their lives and was able to get the very best out of each of them. It was amazing to see." Keep up the fantastic work, Ashley!



Awarded to a university mentor who showed exceptional dedication and commitment to the In2science program

Yasindu Hettiarachchi

The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Science (Medicinal Chemistry)

Mentored at Pakenham Secondary College and Collingwood College

Yasindu is a fantastically energetic and passionate mentor who loves to help students see their STEM potential, whether the goal is to pass a challenging chemistry class, or to become a medicinal chemist like himself. Yasindu has consistently approached his coordinator looking for more opportunities to get involved with the program and STEM education. Passion, commitment, and dedication are not just important traits for a successful placement, but also for a successful STEM career - so keep it up Yasindu, and you'll go far!

Sofia Penco

RMIT University

Bachelor of Aviation

Mentored at Pascoe Vale Girls College

Sofia's supervising teacher, Carolyn Drenen, has said, "Sofia was calm, approachable and was able to build and foster very good professional relationships with the students. She was also patient and attentive to students who would always ask her the most interesting questions." Sofia worked hard to engage students while mentoring and helped Carolyn to teach scientific concepts. Sofia has further shown her dedication by taking the time to speak to current VCE physics students about her career path. We appreciate your enthusiasm, Sofia!

Jolene Erin Rosca

Deakin University

Bachelor of Psychological Science

Mentored at Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College

Working with the same teacher and year level at Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College across both placements in 2023, Jolene has excelled at building relationships with students and modelling her passion for her studies in psychology. These strong relationships allowed her to support reluctant learners to engage. Outside of her placements, Jolene embraced every opportunity to further contribute. Her fun memory/probability maths trick engaged both parents and students at Ngarri Primary School's STEM Celebration, further showing her ability to connect with people of different ages. Her enthusiasm for the In2science program has been infectious!



COMMUNICATION MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Jhon Baron Oliveros

Deakin University

PhD (Engineering)

Mentored at Geelong High School and Oberon High School

Jhon is an expert in sharing his knowledge with a range of audiences. As a PhD candidate, he can explain his research at different levels and ensure understanding from his audience. Jhon applied this skill during his placement at Geelong High School where he actively assisted in problem-solving sessions on Arduino projects and supported the students to see real-life STEM applications. This ability to create connections and context is one of Jhon's strengths, and is coupled with his desire for all students to see the link between in-school science and the real world of STEM after school – what an inspiring mentor!

Anton Guzman

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Science (Physics)

Mentored at Dandenong High School

A new mentor this year, Anton has nonetheless already made a significant contribution to the world of mentoring. Having worked previously as a mentor in the Swinburne Next_leap program and now as an In2science mentor, both at Dandenong High School, Anton's commitment and desire to support student learning was clear right from the beginning. His confident manner, and kind and articulate nature make him a perfect fit for mentoring, able to not only explain scientific concepts in varying degrees of complexity, but also in a way that is wholly fascinating and entertaining. Anton will no doubt be an amazing scientist, but he would also make for an exceptional teacher. Hats off to you, Anton!



Awarded to a university mentor who excelled at communicating STEM concepts to diverse audiences in the classroom

Amy Harding

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Science (Psychological Science)

Mentored at Pascoe Vale Girls College

Amy's classroom teacher, Carolyn Drenen, said it best: "Amy was an excellent STEM communicator who went 'above and beyond' to share her passion for science." Amy was placed in a class with a low number of disengaged students, making it difficult to build relationships and feel as if she was making a difference. Amy persisted and worked with her classroom teacher to find ways of engaging with the students. This included leading activities, helping individual students who were struggling, and team-teaching many scientific concepts. Amy used her genetics knowledge to provide real-world examples of biology concepts being taught. Well done Amy!

Lejla Kartal

The University of Melbourne

PhD (Microbiology)

Mentored at Footscray High School

Being a PhD student, Lejla is frequently tasked with communicating the complexities of antimicrobial resistance to different audiences, and the practice is paying off. Lejla works brilliantly with the students in her Footscray High School class and can navigate the science communication tightrope by being equal parts supportive, creative, and inquisitive. Lejla doesn't just give up the answers straight away but leads students down a path for them to find the answers themselves without getting lost, confused, or frustrated: a very difficult feat, and a highly commendable skill!

Joshua Stevens

RMIT University

Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical Engineering) (Honours)

Mentored at Mill Park Secondary College

Joshua is a strong STEM communicator and has used this skill to great effect in his placement. Joshua explains scientific concepts to students in the classroom in a way that makes sense to them. He also shows them practical applications of where something might be relevant in the real world, drawing on his own studies where he can. His ability to connect with the students on their level is fundamental to their learning of STEM concepts. Well done, Joshua!





IMPACT MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Jessica Ikhtear

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Biomedicine

Mentored at Epping Secondary College

Jess has a very friendly and infectious personality and used it to make connections and develop rapport with students quickly. Jess was able to bring her expertise from studying biomedicine into the classroom when the students were cultivating and investigating bacterial colonies, extending their learning. Jess' classroom teacher, Sean Loffman, said, "The positive class environment that Jess helped establish facilitated some very energising conversations about tertiary studies and careers in STEM." We are looking forward to having Jess as part of our mentoring team well into the future.

Brooke Jensen

Deakin University

Master of Teaching (Secondary)

Mentored at Warrnambool College

Brooke's passion for STEM comes across in everything she does – from running the Science and Engineering Challenge in Warrnambool to developing PowerPoints for almost every session of her In2science placement. She challenged the students in her classes with tough topics like ethics in cloning and introduced them to the Ig Nobel Prize. The conversations with students during and after these quick presentations demonstrated the impact she has had; the questions they asked and their eagerness to learn more were wonderful examples. Thank you, Brooke, for your enthusiasm and going above and beyond in every session.



Awarded to a university mentor who made a strong impact by challenging perceptions of STEM in their student mentees

Anthony Menna

RMIT University

*Bachelor of Applied Science
(Medical Radiations)*

Mentored at Pascoe Vale Girls College

Anthony has been a warm and supportive mentor in the classroom throughout his placement. Anthony's supervising teacher, Carolyn Drenen, said, "Anthony was an excellent STEM communicator who went 'above and beyond' to share his passion for science, as he initiated and shared with my class a number of presentations to provide answers to some of my students' questions about his research in radiography. He had a great sense of humour and kept us thoroughly entertained with science memes and 'Dad-jokes.'" Sometimes humour is the best way to engage students, and we are so glad Anthony brought this into his mentoring placement.

Elizabeth Thomas

The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)

Mentored at Pakenham Secondary College and Mount Alexander College

An often-understated role of an In2science mentor is building student confidence with STEM. In reality, it's incredibly important and a very difficult task, even for a professional teacher. Being such an easy-going and approachable person, Elizabeth effortlessly breaks down the walls of the hard-to-reach teenager, and offers up fun, interesting, and honest insight into what it's like being a woman in STEM and what university and STEM are like in the real world.

Alexandra Vimpany

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)

Mentored at Cranbourne Secondary College and Westall Secondary College

You may remember Ally as our mentor guest speaker of the 2022 Awards. In that speech, Ally talked about pathways and the idea that attending university does not have to be a straight and narrow path; it can often be after a detour, a break, or a change in life that leads people to find what they want to do with their future. During her placements this year Ally has espoused this same message to the students in her classes, and in doing so, has undeniably made a strong impact on those kids. By challenging the perception that your success in life is predicated on your success in Year 11 or 12, Ally provides a world where anyone can achieve great things in STEM, regardless of the path they take to get there. Well done, Ally!

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MENTOR LEADERS PROGRAM

AWARD FINALISTS

Danni Luo

The University of Melbourne

PhD (Chemical Engineering)

Mentored at Camperdown College and Ballarat High School

Danni is a thoughtful and considerate person who puts her whole heart into everything she does. She consistently goes above and beyond for her mentees and goes out of her way to ensure a welcoming learning environment, and it is for these reasons that Danni was recommended for the Mentor Leaders Program. Danni was matched with Diana Paez Ortiz from Toyota Australia and they discussed Danni's future plans during their meetings. We can't wait to see what Danni does next!

Veda Mileva

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Biomedicine

Mentored at Epping Secondary College

One meeting with Veda is enough to see she has a warm, approachable nature and is a confident communicator, making her an obvious choice for the Mentor Leaders Program. Veda and her mentor, Catherine Hart from Toyota Australia, were one of the most active pairs in this year's program. Across multiple meetings, they discussed topics like graduate programs, CVs, and interview skills. We were so impressed with Veda's engagement with Cat and the program that we invited her to discuss her experience at one of our events. Congratulations on a fantastic year, Veda!

Elizabeth Thomas

The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Science (Chemistry)

Mentored at Pakenham Secondary College and Mount Alexander College

Elizabeth's involvement in the Mentor Leaders Program was outstanding. Elizabeth was active in giving feedback to improve the program and always took opportunities presented to her. Elizabeth was able to attend a site visit at Thermo Fisher Scientific with her mentor, Gabriel Brodie, and learnt so much from the experience of seeing real-life industry. We are certain that Elizabeth's natural leadership qualities coupled with knowledge gained from being in the MLP will see her go far!

Tallulah Waterson

Swinburne University of Technology

Bachelor of Science (Honours)

Mentored at Ballarat High School

Tallulah and her mentor, Jacqueline Saykao from Thermo Fisher Scientific, met several times throughout the year resulting in an extremely successful pairing. They both attended a Mentor Leaders Program leadership workshop and took the opportunity to discuss how to apply the techniques they discovered to their current roles. Jacqueline has helped Tallulah find potential opportunities for when she completes university and we are certain her future is going to be very bright!

Awarded to a university mentor who embraced the opportunities of the Mentor Leaders Program and showcased their skills while engaging with STEM students

Zoe Whitehouse

The University of Melbourne

Bachelor of Science (Degree with Honours)

Mentored at Maffra Secondary College and Ballarat High School

Zoe's engagement with the Mentor Leaders Program in 2023 was exceptional. Zoe was paired with Tahnee Saunders from WEHI and we are delighted with how successful this match was. Witnessing Zoe and Tahnee chatting openly during our leadership workshop was inspiring. We are so proud of how this relationship has blossomed, with Tahnee supporting Zoe during her Honours presentation, and Zoe applying for a job at Tahnee's organisation. Congratulations Zoe, we are so excited for what the future holds for you.

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REGIONAL IMPACT MENTOR AWARD FINALISTS

Mohammad Al Saidy

*Swinburne University of Technology
Bachelor of Science (Physics)*

Mentored a home-schooled student

Mohammad has been Joshua's eMentor for all of 2023. Joshua is wise beyond his years and is extremely passionate about science. Mo has been flexible and adaptable during the sessions, allowing Joshua to determine what will work best. Working together, Mo and Joshua have investigated a wide range of topics coming from Joshua's insatiable curiosity. Mo has made an incredible difference to Joshua, well done Mo!

Amanda Coleman

*The University of Melbourne
Bachelor of Science (Psychology)*

Mentored at Maffra Secondary College

Amanda was matched with her mentee Caitlin at the beginning of 2023, and the match was so perfect that they asked to work together for the remainder of the year! Caitlin described Amanda as "a very helpful mentor who is always there to adjust to anything you need. She is always happy to give you extra work if you need and she is overall an amazing and very friendly person." Amanda's passion and enthusiasm for mentoring has not gone unnoticed!

Himaka Gunasinghe

*The University of Melbourne
Doctor of Medicine*

Mentored a home-schooled student and at Virtual School Victoria

Himaka was a fantastic eMentor throughout 2023. His eMentee, Alex, said, "Himaka has been wonderful to chat to about study habits and medical drama. I have enjoyed our meetings and have gained some useful study skills!" Despite being extremely busy studying a Doctor of Medicine degree, Himaka always made time to meet with his eMentees and support their STEM learning.

Moshfeque E Jahan

*Swinburne University of Technology
Bachelor of Computer Science
(Software Development)*

Mentored at Maffra Secondary College

Moshfeque is everything you could want in an eMentor! Mosh took on two mentees in his first semester of mentoring and is a natural. He is patient, supportive, adaptable, and encouraging. Mosh created an inclusive and positive environment for his mentees to learn and ask questions, offering constructive feedback along the way. He introduced his mentees to coding and engaged them by challenging them to create a computer game. The impact Mosh has made on these students cannot be underestimated.

Awarded to a university mentor who went above and beyond while engaging students in the online In2science eMentoring program

Teuila Jarvis

Deakin University

Bachelor of Marine Science

Mentored at Galen Catholic College

Teuila has been an outstanding eMentor for her mentee Taylor. Teuila was very encouraging and gave her mentee time and space to discuss her passion for geology and crystals while also broadening her horizons. Teuila helped Taylor set some future goals, which is a big achievement for a Year 7 student. Taylor's teacher, Maree Timms of Galen Catholic College, said, "Teuila was an excellent role model. Taylor always enjoyed her interaction with Teuila and would tell me excitedly about what was planned."

Alex Jones

RMIT University

Bachelor of Engineering (Sustainable Systems Engineering)

Mentored at Maffra Secondary College

Alex has approached his eMentoring with immense passion. Sharing was the main characteristic of Alex's sessions. He showed his mentees photos of his trek to Everest Base Camp and provided them with a Robotics Kit, giving practical advice and encouragement to the students while they worked on it. Alex also shared his broad knowledge based on his varied career and life experiences and his understanding of what it's like to attend high school in a regional area. Alex's desire to show how important STEM is to make positive change and to inspire the next generation of inquisitive minds was evident in his eMentoring.

Jessica Ovens

RMIT University

Bachelor of Space Science

Mentored at Virtual School Victoria

Jessica and her eMentee Mary have been a perfect match! Jessica understands and supports Mary, and encourages her to be herself and to not let anything hold her back. Mary's mother, Mellisa, said, "Mary's connection with Jess was immediate. I hope they can continue this very special opportunity in the years to come." Thank you, Jessica, for enabling Mary to reach her full potential and embrace her passion for STEM.

Natasha Patel

La Trobe University

Bachelor of Biomedicine

Mentored at Seymour College and Virtual School Victoria

Natasha's commitment to eMentoring in 2023 is commendable. She dedicated herself to creating memorable and fun sessions, and related the content to real-life examples. Natasha worked hard to adapt her language and behaviour to engage her mentee and discussed topics they were interested in, such as navigating the transition from high school to university. The consideration that Natasha has shown to her eMentee is outstanding, and we are very lucky to have her in our program!

THANK YOU

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Hume Central Secondary College
Laverton P-12 College
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Narre Warren South P-12 College
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