

## **Media Release: Empowering future educators: Pathway2Teach program**

The Pathway2Teach program, supported by the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office (TCSO) and hosted at St Joseph's College in Toowoomba, offers final-year education students a unique opportunity to gain invaluable classroom experience, paving the way for their development as future educators.

Recently, St Joseph's College welcomed two enthusiastic students, Andrew Day from QUT and Kirsty Stoker from UniSQ, who embarked on a 10-week journey within the College's vibrant professional learning community.

Brendon Willocks, Deputy Principal at St Joseph's College, was delighted to welcome Andrew and Kirsty into St Joseph's College's professional learning community.

"By joining the College community these pre-service teachers experienced the three pillars of the Staff Development and Engagement Plan: you belong here, you are valued here, and you can succeed here. These guiding principles foster an environment and culture where all staff can grow, develop and thrive into exceptional educators, setting a strong foundation for Andrew and Kirsty as they prepare for their teaching careers and form their individual teacher identity," he said.

Andrew shared how the Pathway2Teach program has significantly boosted his confidence in teaching.

"The supportive environment has allowed me to explore classroom practices with greater autonomy than in my previous placements. My mentor's constructive feedback has been instrumental in my growth, ensuring I feel well-prepared for my teaching journey," Andrew said.

Kirsty echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the program's role in bridging the gap between her studies and her future career.

“Throughout this experience, I’ve had the chance to learn classroom teaching practices in a supportive environment. St Joseph’s College has made me feel truly connected to their school, the students and the broader community. Overall, the program has drastically changed my perspective on teaching, leaving me better prepared to enter the workforce with confidence,” Kirsty remarked.

The Pathway2Teach program will run again next year to provide opportunities for our future educators.

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