

## Independent News For The ACT Public Service

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# Excellence adds up for maths teacher

**A mathematics teacher** at the Turner School has won a national award for excellence.

Sam Hardwicke (pictured) was one of 10 teachers honoured nationally by the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) with a Choose Maths Teacher Excellence Award for outstanding work in and beyond the classroom.



AMSI said Mr Hardwicke had been recognised for his mentorship of both students and colleagues and his leadership of project-based learning.

“His approaches have strengthened links between learning and twenty-first-century real-world application,” AMSI said.

***National award for Turner teacher*** “From the establishment of a biannual STEM [science, technology, engineering and maths] festival and participation in the Statistical Society of Australia’s poster competition, to strategic thinking electives to build digital literacy and computational thinking, to applying mathematics to real-world problems, Sam is a true classroom innovator.”

It said Mr Hardwicke’s students had built websites to demonstrate their learning.

“A recent highlight for Sam was a girl in his class who had previously been reluctant to even attempt mathematics, [who told] him she’d spent two hours the night before updating her site to demonstrate her understanding of fractions,” AMSI said.

“His mentorship has built the knowledge and capacity of his colleagues, encouraging innovative practice and a shift to inquiry-learning approaches to maximise student engagement and learning outcomes.”

The Institute said Mr Hardwicke’s involvement in a range of education and mathematics organisations had deepened his school’s engagement with the Australian mathematical community.

Now in their second year, the Awards are a partnership between AMSI and the BHP Billiton Foundation.