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Abstract

Author biographies for the volume 6, number 1 issue of the Journal of Student Engagement: Education Matters, 2016.



Author biographies

Robert Angelkovski

Robert is currently studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong and is in his fourth year of the degree. Entering the course as a mature-age student, after many years in the insurance industry, he hopes to finally fulfil his lifelong ambition of becoming a teacher after graduation in 2016. Robert's research interests are in the area of resilience and the significant impact it can have on students' academic and personal lives. He intends to bring this knowledge into the classroom and equip students with the necessary skills required to effectively deal with any adversity that may arise in their lives.

Courtney Belsito

Courtney is a second-year student studying a Bachelor of Primary Education at the University of Wollongong. From a young age, she has been inspired by determined and passionate teachers, who have motivated her to want to shape the lives of young children. Through experience and observation on professional experience, Courtney has realised how influential a teacher is to their students. In the future, after graduation, she hopes to focus her primary teaching experience on the earlier years. She also aspires to open her own day care centre to pursue her love for positively shaping young children's lives.

Wade Dever

Wade is a fourth-year Bachelor of Primary Education student at the University of Wollongong. He was initially drawn to study education through working in the field of outdoor education and hearing students often state that they disliked school. He decided to study primary education to gain a deeper understanding of the educational system and to better understand such attitudes. It is a future goal and desire of his to establish a learning environment within a school community that empowers students to want to learn and enjoy the processes involved.

Elizabeth Giardini

Elizabeth is in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Primary Education degree. Her goal is to be an inspiring, dedicated and effective classroom teacher within the primary context. She values education and feels as though it can empower individuals in a way that nothing else can. She is particularly passionate about mathematics, as it is vital component of effective functioning within our complex and ever-changing society. Mathematics pedagogy can be challenging, so Elizabeth's aim for this article is to provide a starting point to raise awareness of the importance of mathematics. That awareness can then provide a springboard into really great mathematics learning opportunities for students. She hopes to instil a love of mathematics in students and engage them mathematically, so they can genuinely enjoy, explore and learn.



Sarah Sanders

Sarah Sanders is a fourth-year student studying a Bachelor of Primary Education (Honours) at the University of Wollongong. In 2016, Sarah was awarded a place on the Dean's Merit List for 2015. She is currently writing her Honours thesis, which explores pre-service primary teachers' mathematics education. Sarah's research interests are in mathematics education, in particular, the role of the teacher in extending students' mathematical thinking, fostering students' confidence and appreciation of mathematics. Following graduation, she wishes to pursue her teaching career and bring her passion to the classroom. Sarah is also considering a return to the university and further her research through postgraduate study.