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## Major national collaborative effort to improve maths and science education

A Commonwealth-funded project will see the University of Tasmania's Faculty of Education become a national centre for research and professional learning in mathematics and science education through a new partnership.

The project, Towards Educating Mathematics Professionals Encompassing Science, ~~and Mathematics~~ ~~and Teachers~~ (TEMPEST), will be led by Kim Beovich, Director of Education at the University's Newnham campus.

With more than \$2.5 million in Commonwealth funding, Professor Beovich said the project, with in-kind support, would deliver consistent, effective professional learning programs for mathematics teachers throughout Australia.

"Mathematics is a crucial educational building block that underpins so much of what

"We need to get mathematics education right in Australia if we are to think for their futures and to help build the highly skilled, science-literate population so necessary

students and inspiring them to grab hold of mathematics and pursue it. We are now supporting them in the teaching of mathematics and science in schools."

TEMPEST, which has a total of \$1.74 million, through the Australian Mathematical Sciences Partnership Program, will assess the existing mathematics professional learning programs and resources, their effectiveness and where the gaps are.

New programs will be developed by the University of Tasmania and trialed in

across the country. An online portal will be built to help coordinate the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers.

The program and program will be evaluated throughout the course of the program and evaluation tools – all of which will be available to you through the online portal.

The Dean of Education, Professor John Williamson, said the funding of this project confirmed the University's reputation as a national leader in education research and thinking.

“This is a great opportunity for our faculty to really drive improvement in an area of national importance, and it's a real pleasure to have this funding.”

“We can identify the professional learning programs that our students need, and we can put them in place for years to come.”

Professor Williamson also congratulated Professor Beswick recently in Sydney for the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australia's (MERGA) annual conference, for winning a prestigious research award.

“Professor Beswick was awarded the 2014 MERGA Research Award for a top 1% research contribution in mathematics education research, and it is well deserved.”

“Coupled with her position as one of eight experts on the national Teacher Education Ministerial Advisory Group, this is a real testament to the quality of the academic staff we have in the Faculty of Education right here in Launceston.”

The TEMPEST initiative will be a joint effort between the University of Tasmania and Swinburne University of Technology, the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers, the Tasmanian Department of Education, TasTAFE and the Tasmanian Quality Education Office.

**Information released by:**

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