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Australia's formula for educational success: (learn + act) x share = grow

Anthony Mackay, Board Chair of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), applauded the findings of the most recent Grattan Institute report that attributed much of the success of east Asia school systems a relentless practical focus on effective learning and the creation of a strong culture of teacher education, collaboration, mentoring, feedback and sustained professional development. "This is what the AITSL *Professional Learning Convention* is all about," he said.

With the approach of the *Professional Learning Convention: (learn + act) x share = grow*, Mr Mackay commented, "There is no doubt that teacher quality is the single most important in-school factor influencing student achievement."

"Recognising the central importance of this fact, the AITSL is hosting this convention as part of our broader endeavour to enable all teachers and school leaders to be the best it is possible to be. The convention will draw on key Australian and international experience with the ultimate objective of helping teachers and school leaders to produce even better outcomes for Australian students."

"This convention will encourage the on-going development of a nation-wide educational community that exploits the vast networking potential of social media. A whole-of-Australia conversation will be a powerful tool for establishing collaborations and sharing ideas, resources and inspirations. Importantly, throughout the convention itself attendees will participate in professional conversations supported by innovative technologies and social media."

The *Professional Learning Convention: (learn + act) x share = grow* will be held at Melbourne's Etihad Stadium on 23 February 2012. Proceedings will be opened by the Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, who will also announce the opening of nominations for the 2012 Australian Awards for Outstanding Teaching and School Leadership.

The main focus of the convention is effective teacher practice – the very act of teaching. Accordingly, the convention provides an opportunity for teachers from across Australia to come together with over 500 of their peers to engage with renowned speakers and the 2011 Australian Primary Teacher of the Year.

Together, we will explore the importance of effective teaching and its impact on student learning. Participants will also investigate the challenges and opportunities for teachers offered by the National Professional Standards for Teachers and by well-crafted professional learning.

Our keynote speakers at this event are Frederick Brown, Director of Strategy and Development, Learning Forward (USA), the largest professional development provider for teachers in the United States; Vicki Phillips, Director of Education, Measures of Effective Teaching project for the Gates Foundation; and Adam Smith, a celebrated young Australian leader and co-founder of the Centre for Public Education.

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www.aitsl.edu.au/plconvention