



World Teachers' Day QLD

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worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

Teaching leads to passion for collaboration

Cathy Hunt's inspiration to become a teacher was sparked by her upbringing in a family of educators.

"Both my parents were hard-working teachers, with my mother at a high school, and my father at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University at night classes after his day job," Cathy said.

"Some of my earliest memories are listening to lessons from under Mum's teaching desk as a little child, tucked in a blanket."

Cathy teaches Visual Arts, Media Arts, STEAM, and Technologies, and is the Curriculum Leader for Year 9 and 10 at McAuley College in Beaudesert.

Throughout her career, Cathy has encountered defining moments that have shaped her as a teacher.

"I was so fortunate to have a wonderful mentor in the early stages of my career," she said.

"I landed in a wonderful environment where a highly skilled teacher was willing to take me through 30 years of learning, day by day.

"All the tools she had in her tool kits, she passed on to me through honest and open discussion. What it really meant was that she passed on to me a love of pedagogy.

"This strong leadership and support in the formative stages of my career was also invaluable in developing confidence and a reflective practice."

A career milestone has been sharing her work at global conferences, made possible with confidence and the support of her colleagues.

When Cathy's school became one of the first in the country to provide iPads for teaching and learning, she provided support to her colleagues in curriculum design, that quickly grew to the sharing of knowledge across campuses.

"These experiences opened so many doors for me in terms of networks and supportive relationships, but more than anything, it fuelled a passion for collaborative work," she said.

"I was motivated to join online communities on Facebook and Twitter, I became an Apple Distinguished Educator, published a blog and wrote books, and connected with teachers across the globe at international conferences.

"It absolutely blew my mind how far outside my classroom it had all gone when I was invited to speak at the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) in the USA in front of 7000 people."

When asked about advice for aspiring teachers, Cathy imparts wisdom gained from her own journey.

"Take opportunities to grow into a school community alongside the children you serve. In giving your expertise and energy to students you will find they give more back to you than you could ever imagine."

Cathy Hunt
McAuley College, Beaudesert