TEACHING @ SYDNEY

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New OLT-funded project will support writing in Engineering

A/Prof Rafael Calvo and **Professor David Lowe** (Engineering and IT) and **Helen Drury** (Learning Centre) are part of a multi-institutional team which has won $219,000 in funding from the Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) in the recently announced Round 2 grants. Their project is entitled 'Driving curriculum and technological change to support writing in the engineering disciplines'. In the project they will make use of online writing tools in supporting the integration of written tasks in undergraduate engineering curricula.

Dr Olivera Marjanovic from the School of Business and **Dr Pietro Cel**i of Veterinary Science will also contribute to two other recently funded projects led by other universities - 'Enhancing collaborative learning in information systems business analytics using data visualisation and manipulation techniques' and 'Development of 4D farms to improve student learning and safety', respectively.

Professor Rick Benitez was one of only ten winners this year of a national Excellence in Teaching Award. The recipients for 2012 were celebrated with a dinner at the National Gallery in Canberra on November 19th, when the Awards were presented by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Senator Chris Evans. Professor Benitez's citation states:

His approach to learning and teaching is grounded in a model of a learning community, in which mutual respect and common purpose drive learning and teaching practices. By modelling the values of learning, including respect, good judgment, intellectual courage and curiosity, Rick has inspired students to adopt habits of learning that change their lives. More recently, in his role as a faculty director of teaching and learning, Rick has inspired staff at all levels to reflect on and improve their understanding of good teaching practices, and to take part in collegial and scholarly programs for the advancement of good teaching.

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