The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Professor Pip Pattison, has warmly congratulated Associate Professor Siegbert Schmid and Associate Professor Adam Bridgeman (Faculty of Science), Dr Helen Mitchell (Sydney Conservatorium of Music) and Dr Lilon Bandler (Sydney Medical School) for their successes in receiving funding in the first 2014 round of grants funding from the Office for Teaching and Learning.

Professor Pattison also acknowledged the work of all the applicants, successful and unsuccessful, and thanked those in the ITL and the faculties who have supported them.

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How do we listen to music performers when we don’t see what we hear? Dr Helen Mitchell's research investigates audiences' perceptions and descriptions of performances, through sound alone and through an audio-visual fusion of sensory information. Helen is now bringing her expertise to the project 'Redefining tacit knowledge in music performance evaluation: preparing perceptually-aware music leaders'. Helen is based at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music (SCM), and is working in partnership with her colleague Roger Benedict (SCM), and Dr Lotte Latukefu of the University of Wollongong. Helen's project will enable music students to experience the complexities and pitfalls of performance evaluation, to learn from music industry experts and develop training strategies to advance their listening acuity for performance and performer evaluation. Helen says 'I'm interested in how students learn the skills they need to judge blind and sighted auditions and performances. Students need to be able to make informed, consistent and justifiable decisions.'

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The discipline of Chemistry has agreed on national threshold learning outcomes (TLOs), and the profession has come on board, with the Royal Australian Chemical Institute deciding to use the TLOs for accreditation. A new project makes the necessary next step. A/Prof Siegbert Schmid (with A/Prof Adam Bridgeman) is leading the project 'Assessing the assessments: evidencing and benchmarking student learning outcomes in chemistry', with partners at Curtin University, Deakin University, Macquarie University, Queensland University of Technology, The University of Adelaide, and the University of Wollongong. Adam Bridgeman says 'The TLOs have been agreed, but we need to work out how to assess them and make them a reality. All the major chemistry schools in Australia are involved, and
we'll be benchmarking against similar projects in the US and UK'.

Dr Lilon Bandler is a partner on a project led by The University of Melbourne, ‘Guiding assessment for learning in Indigenous health at level 9 of the Australian Qualifications Framework’, with partners at Flinders University, The University of Queensland and The University of Auckland (NZ). Health sciences students studying at Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 9 (masters or extended masters degrees) will be future primary practitioners and leaders in Indigenous health care delivery, and the AQF specifies that they should achieve an extended understanding of Indigenous health. The project will map current Indigenous health assessment practices to inform the development of a guide to assessment for learning in masters level Indigenous health curricula. The guide will address how academics can design assessment tasks (both formative and summative) to achieve AQF level 9 (Masters) learning outcomes in Indigenous health programs so that future health practitioners are able to effectively and sustainably influence determinants of health and better outcomes for Indigenous Australians.