

Media Release



Tuesday 25 June 2019

Innovation-based skills set to stem from exciting new initiative

Local students are set to benefit from a ground-breaking new initiative, which will support excellence, diversity and retention in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) related careers.

Generation STEM, which is funded by the NSW Government and managed and delivered by CSIRO Education and Outreach, is an education program for students in Years 9 and 10. It is designed to empower the next generation with STEM skills and will:

- Provide positive STEM-based activities for students, which will increase STEM capabilities and interest in STEM-based study;
- Enhance connections and engagement between local schools, industry and the community;
- Increase levels of STEM career aspirations and understanding of local STEM careers, pathways and opportunities;
- Increase ease of transition to STEM based employment; and
- Increase industry access to a local STEM capable workforce.

Camden Region Economic Taskforce's (CRET) Chairperson, Adriana Care, said she was proud the Camden area was one of the first local government areas selected to take part in the initiative.

"With the Western Sydney Airport right on our doorstep and the large youth population across Camden, our area is really key for Generation STEM," Ms Care said.

"We're moving into an era of fast-paced, technology-based innovation and we need a STEM-skilled, innovation-capable workforce to help our region and economy grow.

"We're already seeing STEM-related industries boom here in Camden. In 2017-18, 35 percent of our working population were employed in STEM-related industries, up by almost 14 percent from the year before. In 2018, 27 percent of our local businesses were STEM-related, up by six percent from 2017's figures.

"Having our students involved in Generation STEM will ensure these all-important STEM-related opportunities, jobs and businesses continue to grow."

Mayor of Camden, Cr Theresa Fedeli, said students from Camden, Elderslie, Elizabeth Macarthur and Mount Annan High Schools, and also Mater Dei, had signed on to be part of the new initiative.

"We expect many more schools to jump on board in the coming months," Cr Fedeli said.

"It makes me incredibly happy to know our youth have the opportunity to reach for the stars, excel at school and embark on a career they find challenging and fulfilling, all thanks to initiatives like this one."

For more information, visit csiro.au/en/Education/Programs/Generation-STEM

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