

GRACELANDS INSIGHT LEARNING TUTOR HONOURED AT 2009 TERTIARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

JEAN CRANE

Jean is the tutor for the Early Childhood Course at Gracelands Insight and she has been with Insight for about five years. Last Tuesday I had the privilege of supporting Jean and her husband Arthur to a prestigious event at Parliament's Banquet Hall. Jean Crane was one of the ten recipients of the prestigious Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards for 2009. These awards administered by Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence cover all teaching staff across the full spectrum of tertiary institutions from Universities to Private Training Enterprises (PTEs). This is only the second time in the nine years since their inception that a PTE tutor has achieved such an honour.



Building on her extensive teaching and leadership experience in Early Childhood Education in the Pacific, Jean has developed and led the delivery of the National Certificate in Early Childhood Education (Level 3) at Gracelands Insight Learning since 2004. Most of her students have had little prior academic success, and Jean is extraordinarily effective in working closely with them to develop their confidence and learning skills. In many cases the students have gone on to achieve at levels they originally thought were well beyond their capabilities.

Jean is highly supportive of her colleagues and also works extensively with external service agencies like potential employers, for the benefit of her students and their communities. Jean relates how fortunate she is "to have had such rich and varied learning experiences throughout my life and how drawing on this knowledge and sharing these wonderful experiences with others has enabled me to assist students to catch the vision for their own lives and move on to realise their own potential".

Jean had won the New Zealand Association of Private Education Providers' Tutor of the Year Award in 2008.

The Minister for Tertiary Education, the Honourable Anne Tolley, made the presentations to the ten recipients one of whom won the Prime Minister's Supreme Award, namely Selene Mize, a senior lecturer at the University of Otago's Faculty of Law.

It is not surprising that Jean has achieved what is possibly the highest accolade that a tertiary educator can achieve. You cannot help but be impressed by Jean's rapport with

her students. Jean has taken students from being nervous participants in learning to having the confidence to go on and complete a degree at university. One of her students stated that "from the day we started at Insight, Jean made us feel welcome. She is always willing to help us with anything and gives us all so much praise. Her creative ideas get the whole class feeling imaginative. Every day we walk into class smiling. Jean is always there for us, whether it be about class work or personal issues, she's always there to give a helping hand. Early childhood education and her students are her passion".

What I see is someone who is always prepared to go the extra mile, is always focused on her job and committed to excellence.

Well done Jean – we are proud of you and very grateful that you are part of the Gracelands Insight Team. You can teach us so much.

Robyn Klos
CEO