RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

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Title: Extending online music education: A regional conservatorium partnership program.

Abstract: The Regional Conservatorium Partnership Program at the University of New England (UNE) is a key initiative that enhances music education in regional New South Wales. This collaboration combines UNE's online Bachelor of Music with the practical, community-focused face-to-face training offered by regional conservatoriums. By integrating UNE's rigorous academic program with the hands-on experience provided by local conservatoriums, students receive a comprehensive education, blending theoretical knowledge with real-world application, and preparing them for careers in the creative arts.

A major impact of this partnership is the increased access to high-quality music education for students in remote areas who might otherwise be unable to pursue such opportunities. The program also fosters a sense of belonging, allowing students to stay connected to their local communities while developing professional skills in performance, composition, and production.

Initially a pilot with the New England Conservatorium in Armidale, the program has now expanded to Tamworth, Coffs Harbour, the Central Coast, and Goulburn. This exposure not only enhances students' technical skills but also broadens their artistic perspectives, leading to better employment opportunities. The Regional Conservatorium Partnership at UNE cultivates a thriving musical landscape in regional New South Wales, nurturing talent and producing graduates who contribute not only as music educators but add to the cultural, social and economic pillars that enhance regional communities.

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