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## **VIRTUAL INNOVATION DELIVERS REAL IMPACT TO REGIONAL STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS**

A virtual Work Integrated Learning (WIL) initiative providing opportunities to over 2,000 students, boosting engagement with rural and remote employers by 300%, and improving employment outcomes for regional students has won the Regional Universities Network's (RUN) 2024 Learning and Teaching Awards.

The RUN Learning and Teaching Awards recognise excellence and achievement at regional universities across Australia.

In announcing the 2024 winners, RUN's Chief Executive Officer Alec Webb congratulated the University of Southern Queensland's NPILF Industry Projects Team for their highly impactful initiative.

"A huge congratulations to the award winners from the University of Southern Queensland for their high-impact teaching initiative improving outcomes for their students and their community.

"These awards demonstrate what those who work at, study at, or lead regional universities already know – that regional universities work tirelessly to continuously innovate and deliver learning and teaching practice to the benefit of their students and communities," said Mr Webb.

This year, 19 finalists were recognised for their initiatives and dedication to improving outcomes for regional students.

"I'd like to congratulate all finalists on reaching the final stages of the awards and recognise the innovative learning and teaching practices they promote.

"All finalists should be incredibly proud of this achievement. It is a testament to their hard work and dedication to improving student outcomes through impactful learning and teaching practices.

"RUN is proud to hold these awards, highlighting the innovative learning and teaching practices occurring at regional universities.

"The statistics do not lie: regional universities lead the country for graduate outcomes and starting salaries. This success is driven by world-leading learning and teaching initiatives that support the needs of regional students, enabling them to succeed at university and beyond," Mr Webb said.

The winner, along with all finalists, for the 2024 RUN Learning and Teaching Awards can be found [here](#).

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