



Leadership

Awarded to Amanda McCue | Amanda has excelled as the CDAA ACT NT Division President over the past few years under extremely testing conditions of the pandemic. She has applied sensitive leadership by evaluating the needs of the Division and has encouraged professional members to share their expertise and knowledge with their colleagues. She is leading with a passion for the career development of defence families and military spouse employment support and her enthusiasm is an inspiration for other CDAA members and international colleagues.

Judges' Comments

- An outstanding effort by Amanda, both in her formal leadership role as a Division President and as a leader in the military spouse employment space. She has supported and grown the cohesion and strength of her Division.
- An excellent contribution to career support of ADF partners and international connections. Bringing the Northern Territory into the ACT division was inspired.

Research

Awarded to Michael Healy | Michael has often felt frustrated by the total absence of leading career development theories in employability research and education. This motivated him to undertake a PhD study, with the aim to articulate a vision of an integrative pedagogy of careers and employability learning. In doing so, he has been a strong advocate for career development as a field of research and as a profession. He has also been published in two of the leading higher education academic journals and has advocated for career development through various channels.

Judges' Comments

- Michael demonstrates genuine professional leadership in his research activities. The fact that his intent and actions are interwoven with a very real passion for the field of career development means that his outcomes are advocacy in action. He has presented ample evidence that his research is of the highest quality.
- Michael has provided an excellent contribution to employability, accessibility of research and to the profession.

Policy

Awarded to the Directorate of Transition Coaching Support - South Queensland | As the Australian Defence Force (ADF) navigates through a period of great cultural change, a challenge is presented to successfully support, coordinate and mentor those who have decided to leave the military services. The ADF has integrated a military position into a civilian team to act as a Military Transition Support Officer. The intent of the role is to advocate for military members to enter the civilian workforce as qualified, empowered, and successful contributors who can utilise their unique skill sets.

Judges' Comments

- ADF transition is of critical importance to the mental health and career direction of personnel. This team has contributed to policy development, showing a high level of tenacity to achieve strong outcomes
- They have done some impressive work in a highly specialised niche, to improve the policy settings that impact on transitioning Defence personnel.

Practice

Awarded to The University of Adelaide Careers Service – Organisation | Covid-19 has created unprecedented challenges for international students unable to return to study in Australia in 2020 and 2021. With the additional border closures, the usual networking opportunities and recruitment activities were no longer available. The University of Adelaide Careers Service developed alternatives to ensure that students would not be disadvantaged in seeking career opportunities whilst studying and post-graduation, including online career development workshops and in person or online mentoring.

Judges' Comments

- The careers team has succeeded in raising the profile of their service and delivering an expanded service in what would otherwise have been a constrained environment.
- What a wonderful story they have to tell, and what a wonderful case study in excellence in adversity and with only 4 staff members. Amazing!

Awarded to Deborah Winton – Individual | Deborah Winton was offered the opportunity to create an exciting career program virtually from scratch in a senior secondary Catholic College. With a broad scope to plan, develop and deliver this new career service, she coordinated many career events and activities. Due to the success, other high schools have now requested these career education activities. She also secured grant funding to run an innovative Youth Week career event, live streamed state-wide. It reached over 2,000 students across 9 schools and showcased seven remarkable young Tasmanians.

Judges' Comments

- Deborah is a wonderful example of a talented and committed school-based practitioner, who also looks beyond the school walls for opportunities to make a difference.
- Deborah clearly has a strong commitment to youth and career innovation in schools. She delivered an innovative program through streaming to reach students during the pandemic.

CDAA's vision is a career development profession recognised for excellence and valued by all Australians. We recognise this work through our Excellence Awards Program, which was launched in late 2012 as part of the Association's Framework for Excellence. The awards are based on the four categories of excellence: Leadership, Practice, Research and Policy.
