

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Education ideas on the boil at SiMERR Summit**

Fifteen innovative projects for teaching maths, science and IT in rural and regional schools will be showcased at a conference to be opened by the new Dean of Education, Professor Ian Hay, at the University of Tasmania in Launceston tomorrow (Wednesday).

The SiMERR Summit has attracted around Tasmanian 80 educators and members of rural and regional communities who are keen to make better provision for students in schools in their areas.

SiMERR (Science, ICT and Maths Education in Rural and Regional Australia) is a nationally funded program operating from October 2005 – June 2008.

The Tasmanian Co-ordinator, Professor Jane Watson from the University's Education Faculty, said that the project's Tasmanian hub aimed to understand the issues and needs in rural communities and look for successful models and ideas.

"We want to build on what we've achieved by creating partnerships and collaborations between researchers, educators and experts," she said.

Successful projects to be highlighted in the SiMERR Summit include:

- SMARTBOTS – online resources for students to build robots using LEGO kits;
- An on-line course for game-making involving 64 teachers statewide;
- A careers-related program giving students authentic experiences in agricultural sciences;
- New methods for TAFE teachers to teach the Building and Construction course using ICT and critical thinking;
- Maths games for kids and parents at home;
- Science kits for teachers to use with their classes.

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