

## CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT LEARNING

### Alan Calder Teaching and Learning Development

#### TITLE

For over 14 years of developing student-centred and evidence-based language and learning support initiatives that empower students to succeed in their learning journeys.

#### ABSTRACT

My sustained contribution to academic support and student learning was initially driven by a fascination for the way in which social interaction, persistence, academic development, student satisfaction and successful learning communities are interconnected with peer support and a successful transition to higher education. I commenced work at the Cairns campus of JCU as a Learning Adviser and Academic Developer in 1998. Cairns students are over-represented in the 25+ age group, come from diverse backgrounds and are often academically underprepared, as is illustrated by a campus retention rate in 2010 some 5% less than that of the JCU average and 7% less than the Townsville retention rate (Corporate Planning and Performance, 2012). These data, and Bradley's (2008) Review of Australian Higher Education, have informed my practice and encouraged me to develop initiatives that address the needs of under-represented and underprepared groups.

#### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO APPLY FOR