

PROFILE

Michelle Dalrymple



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Dr Michelle Dalrymple, Mathematics and Statistics Faculty Head at Cashmere High School in Christchurch, is the 2019 Prime Minister's Science Teacher Winner. This prize was formally announced in mid-2020. Michelle is the first Mathematical Sciences teacher to win this award since it began. It serves to highlight the fact that Mathematics and Statistics features strongly in the STEM grouping of subjects.

Michelle's nomination for the prize says her teaching stands out because it is strongly based on cutting-edge mathematics and statistics education research, while maintaining originality, creativity, and fun with strategies that are relevant and inspiring for her students. Her fascination with Statistics was sparked at the University of Canterbury. Over twenty years ago, Michelle successfully completed her PhD in Statistics at that University under the supervision of Irene Hudson, now Professor at the Royal Melbourne University of Technology. Her work is grounded in strong personal mathematics and statistics content knowledge and the research, theories, and practices of mathematics and statistics teaching, growth mindset, positive pedagogies of care, and culturally responsive teaching. Michelle's teaching also reflects New Zealand-focussed and international research literature and practical classroom-based resources.

Her pet dogs are even involved in exercises like random sampling by video, which has been a hit with her students and on her blog which she shares on social media.

Within her school, Michelle shares her experience, growing the expertise of other teachers towards all students flourishing academically and personally. Whilst at a regional and national level, Michelle has made substantial contributions in a range of Ministry of Education and NZQA development teams that have led to improved outcomes for students nationwide. She has also facilitated many professional development workshops for teachers around the country and at conferences.

Recent events at Cashmore High School show things continue to expand. Her faculty has finally moved into a delightful new Mathematics and Statistics block earlier this year (post-earthquake rebuild), and Michelle reports that "teaching continues to be thoroughly rewarding, enjoyable, challenging and busy". She leads a faculty of 17 other staff. They have recently been involved in piloting the new Numeracy standard, which will be a co-requisite as part of the NCEA changes, and over 400 Year 10 students completed their digital assessment in October.

In the wider community, Michelle gave a keynote address (online) for the Auckland Mathematics Association in September last year (the topic was “Setting up and maintaining a successful class”) and was the inaugural “current teacher” keynote speaker for Auckland Statistics Teachers’ Day in November last year (with topic “10 teaching activities: whanaungatanga - teaching through relationships”). This year, Michelle was a member of the The Royal Society Te Apārangi Expert Advisory Panel on Mathematics and Statistics, and that report appeared in October.

Michelle Dalrymple continues to demonstrate hands-on leadership across the spectrum of secondary teaching in Mathematics and Statistics and the Mathematical community are proud to congratulate her on her ongoing success.

Graeme Wakes