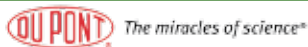


SECTION 6
ENVIRONMENT &
EDUCATION

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Higher education agreement enhances agricultural sector

An agreement between the Australian Agricultural College Corporation and the University of New England, Armidale, is opening doors to further education for those interested in a career in agriculture.

Together, the educators are working to provide an easy way to move from the hands-on training offered through AACC to a fast-tracked university education.

In a six-year partnership, the articulation agreement allows graduates of AACC to enrol in UNE with advanced standing.

"In practical terms, this means students who complete a Diploma of Agriculture with us will be eligible to have a year, or 48 credits taken off a Bachelor of Agriculture through UNE," AACC director John Elich said.

"This allows students to work towards their university goal while gaining the practical, on-farm skills we teach at each of our five campuses.

"We are looking at other UNE courses that will fit this articulation as well."

John Elich said the ability for students who have not completed Year 12 to still gain a QCE through the agricultural colleges was another avenue in which many young people would be interested.

"They can join AACC after Year 10," he said.

"So, from that perspective, this agreement gives those who want to start work in the agricultural sector the opportunity to do so and still have the option of going on to university."

UNE's Student Recruitment Manager, John Kauter said the new relationship added another opportunity to proceed to higher qualifications for jobs in the rural sector.

"UNE is arguably the nation's foremost agricul-

tural university with a solid reputation for quality teaching, so combining with a leading agricultural training provider like AACC was a logical step for us," he said.

"The university was the first outside a metropolitan area and was established in 1938 to provide education to regional people. We pioneered distance education at the same time.

"We continually receive the highest ratings in the national Good Universities Guide, for quality teaching, student satisfaction and getting a job.

"In fact we have more five-star ratings than any other university in Australia."

John Kauter said the UNE experience for regional students was all the more relevant in today's rural industry, highlighting that national co-operative research centres (CRCs) for Beef, Sheep and Poultry are headquartered at the university and several others were closely associated.

"We also have 5500 hectares of diversified farming and grazing country for theory to be practised and the bottom line is an optimum learning opportunity, either by distance education or on campus," he said.

The University of New England's Semester I, 2010 distance applications can be made until the end of January. More information and on-line applications are available at www.une.edu.au

The 2010 program guide for the Australian Agricultural College Corporation will be distributed in the near future for those wanting to investigate a career in the rural sector.

More information can be found at www.aacc.edu.au or by contacting your preferred campus or the University of New England direct.



AACC Emerald Campus Manager Jim Sands talks to students about the grain industry.



Caitlyn Gooderham enjoys the hands-on aspects of the AACC.