



# ST★RS

Sessional Teaching &  
Reflection Showcase



This initiative is proudly  
supported by the QUT  
Learning and Teaching Unit

Michelle Fox: [stars@qut.edu.au](mailto:stars@qut.edu.au)  
Lecturer – Academic Development (Sessional Development) |  
Learning and Teaching Unit | Queensland University of Technology

to cast light on  
**s e s s i o n a l**  
s t a r s



ST★RS empowers Sessional  
Academics to achieve their full  
potential,

And to be recognised for their  
learning and teaching innovations,

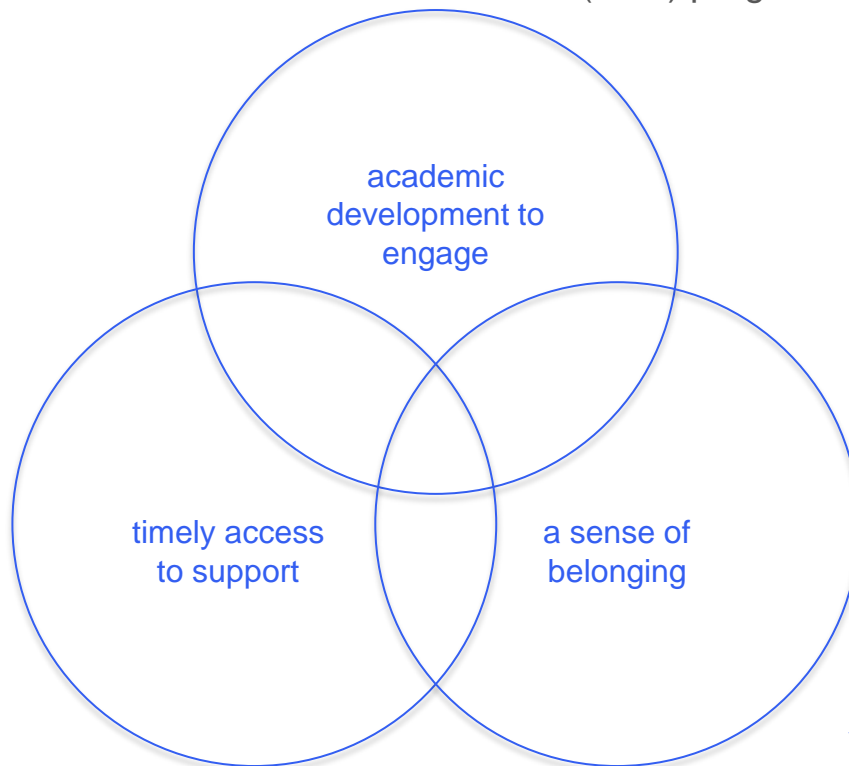
As it celebrates and inspires good  
practices in Sessional teaching  
at QUT.



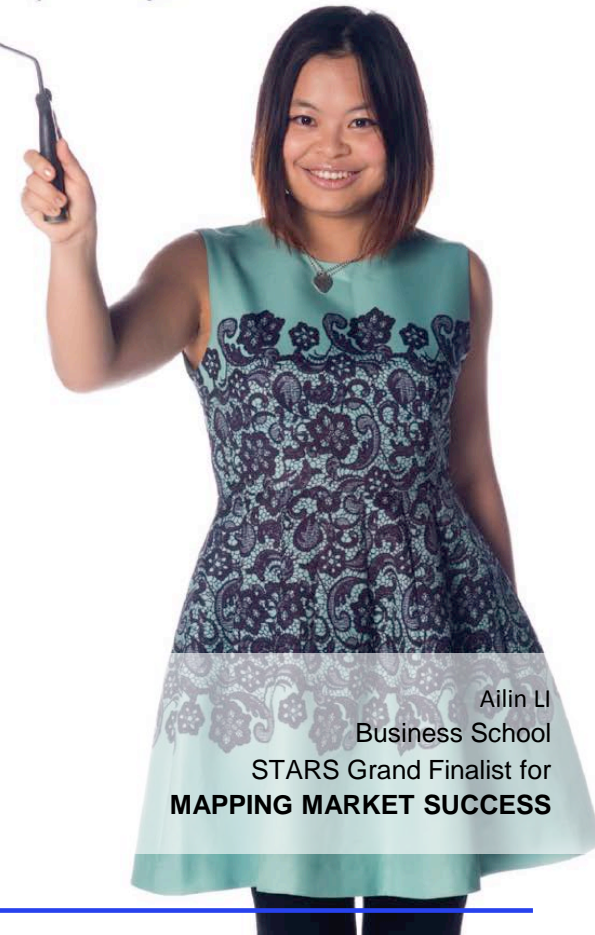
Rosalind Helliwell  
School of Nursing  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**LEARNING YOUR ABC'S**

# a catalyst to reach for the stars

Contextualised in the Sessional Academic Success  
(SAS) program:



Vincent Tinto



Ailin Li  
Business School  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**MAPPING MARKET SUCCESS**

# a backdrop for the stars

Inspired by the Academic Development program:

1: introduction to  
learning & teaching

2: strategies for  
student success

3.assessment, marking  
& feedback

4.strategies for  
academic success

Monika Ptaszynski-Holgar  
School of Design  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**CASUAL READING SCOUTS**



# to describe the stars

An opportunity for Sessionals to reflect on and showcase teaching achievements in:

- ★ Contextual innovation
- ★ Engaging learners
- ★ Effective communication
- ★ Inspiring peers



Michael Willmetts  
School of Media, Entertainment and Creative Arts  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**ECHO CHAMBER**

# how to support a rising star

Through mentorship Sessionals develop their initiatives into good practice case studies:

## 1) Dedicated training sessions:

- ★ Abstract

## 2) Collaborative workshops & one-on-one consultations:

- ★ Strategic messages
- ★ Visual communication
- ★ Pecha Kucha presentations



Lauren Howard  
Business Faculty  
STARS Finalist for

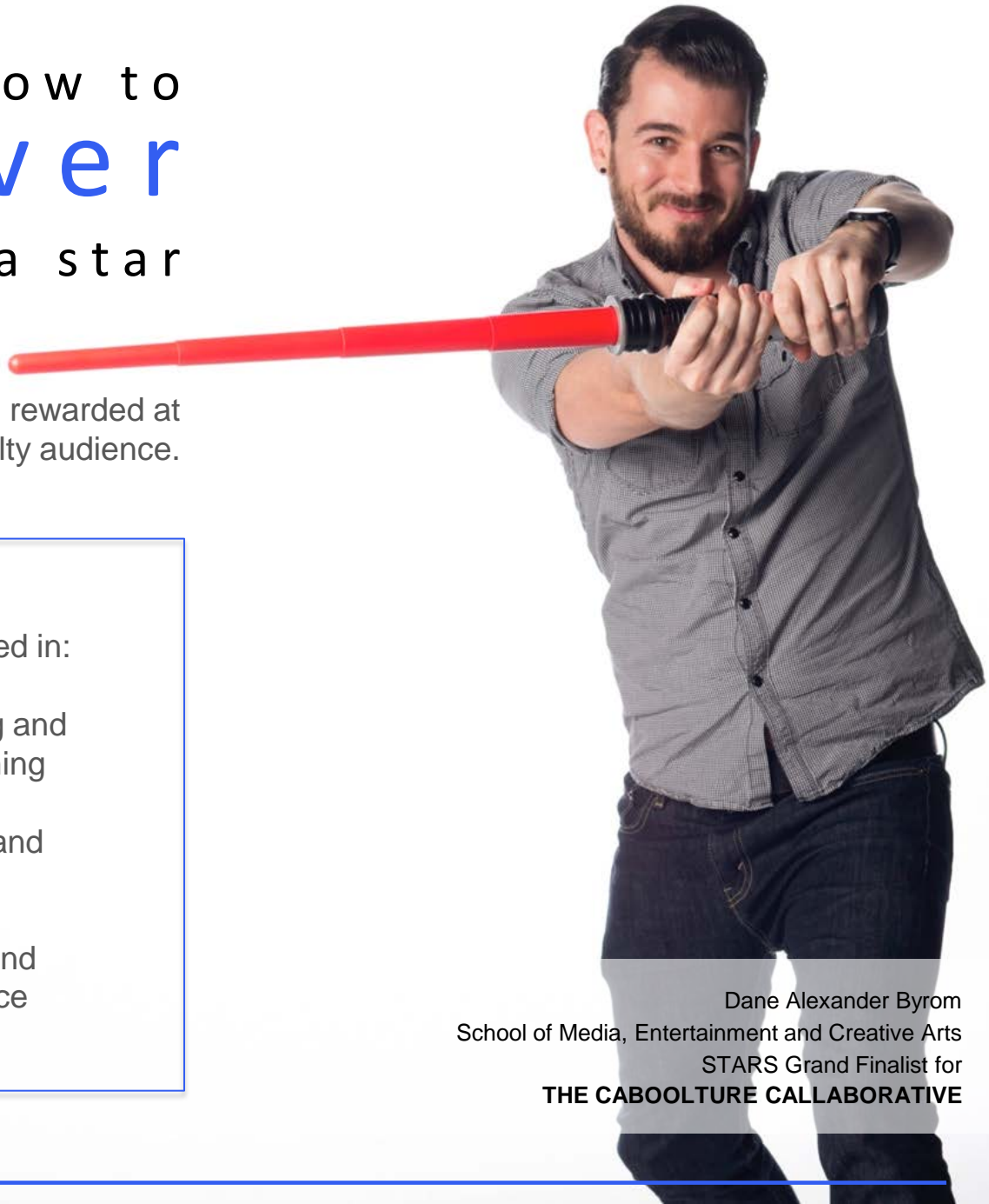
**I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM DOING**

# how to discover a star

Sessionals are recognised and rewarded at  
School-level Finals by a faculty audience.

Excellence is acknowledged in:

- ★ Innovation in motivating and engaging students in learning
- ★ Influence on teaching and learning culture
- ★ Inspiring presentation and explanation of good practice



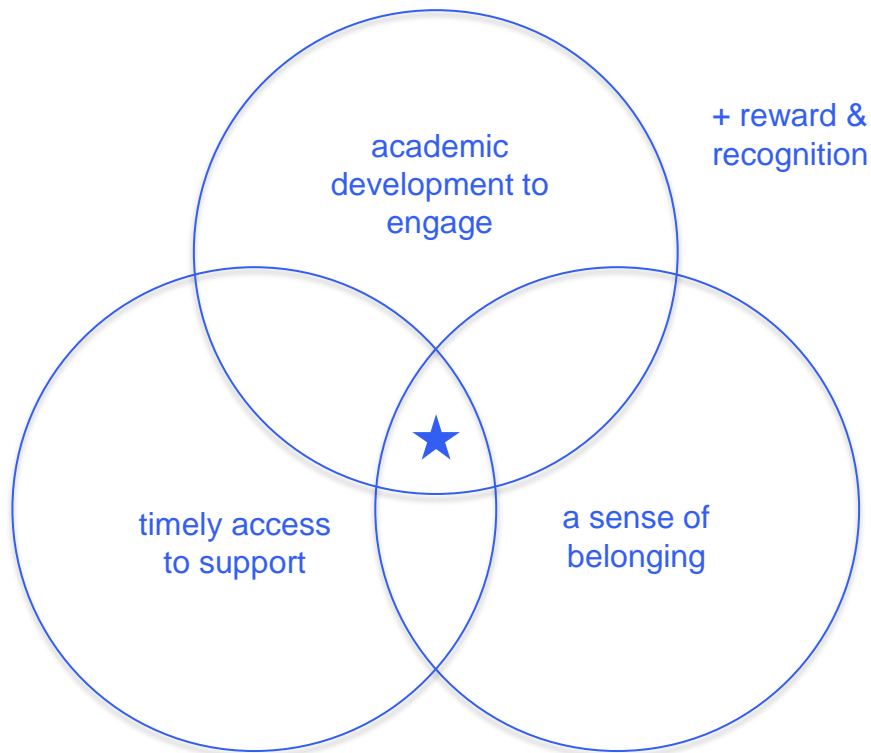
Dane Alexander Byrom  
School of Media, Entertainment and Creative Arts  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**THE CABOOLTURE CALLABORATIVE**

# how sessionals shine





# the outcomes: above & beyond



Sean Powell  
School of Chemistry, Physics and Mechanical Engineering  
STARS Grand Finalist for  
**IT'S NOT EXACTLY ROCKET SCIENCE**

# the i m p a c t of the stars

STARS Finalists write:

“**The STARS process proved, for me, to be an extraordinary catalyst.** It prompted distillation [of] diverse work across multiple disciplines, domains, and scales, from a period of 3 to 5 years. Bouyed by Michelle and the team’s enthusiastic belief, patience, unbounded effervescence, and passionate support, **the process distilled a singular word, which I sense may provide a guiding star in what comes next; in my unfolding future as a sessional at QUT; and in my professional work beyond**”.

“[STARS] has given me **an important opportunity to make connections with other Sessionals and given me a sense of belonging.** I hope [others] moving into academia avail of the wonderful system you have put in place”.

Audience members write:

“...impressive and uplifting – your STARS have **motivated me to make a difference through my teaching** –to engage, inspire and unlock the talents of every student I teach”.

“Through STARS, Michelle introduced **an effective mechanism for rewarding and recognising Sessional Academics, which has long been an elusive goal for QUT (and the sector)**”.

---