



Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia Inc

## HERDSA Heroes in Higher Education Award

Associate Professor Cate Thomas, Faculty of Science, Charles Sturt University  
Cc Dr Prue Gonzalez.

9 July 2021

Dear Cate

You were nominated for the HERDSA Heroes award which recognises academic generosity in challenging times. The award was designed to provide HERDSA members with an opportunity to show their gratitude for the generosity of a colleague or team of colleagues, who have supported them or others in an unexpected/ exceptional way during the COVID-19 pandemic for the period between 2020-21. We received a total of 16 applications detailing acts of academic generosity in areas of research, teaching, service, or academic development. The reviewers of the applications found it challenging to select just five from these impressive examples of generosity.

I would like to advise that you were selected to receive a HERDSA Heroes award.

Your nominator Prue said:

Cate provided inspirational leadership, generosity, and kindness as she led quality and teams in a time of disruption through reimagining her role to become a powerful anchor building mutual trust and respect with more than 500 staff and 9000 students distributed across five campus locations and also working remotely. Cate demonstrates a genuine dedication, commitment and drive to assist not just students on their life-long learning journey, but to also assist staff in their professional growth, development and engagement in a community of practice. Her leadership role as Associate Dean Academic has been invaluable in improving learning and teaching practices in the Faculty, promoting the scholarship of learning and teaching, and also building a collegial environment across a distributed and disrupted landscape.

The Heroes Awards were ratified at the HERDSA Executive meeting on 5 July, 2021. You will shortly receive a certificate and \$500 to thank you for your contribution to supporting colleagues and higher education more broadly in these challenging times. We would like to post this statement which recognises your contribution on the HERDSA website. Please advise Jennifer in the HERDSA office if you wish for changes to this statement.

Please accept my personal congratulations.

Kindest regards

Denise Chalmers  
HERDSA President