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Charles Sturt University pharmacy staff meet potential graduate employers in Dubbo

In an initiative to meet local pharmacists in rural and regional areas of Australia, representatives of the Charles Sturt University (CSU) Pharmacy program travelled to Dubbo in April to interact with potential employers of the program's graduates.

The event was attended by 15 pharmacists from the Dubbo and surrounding area who enjoyed a range of CSU Wine and Cheese while gaining an insight into the Bachelor of Pharmacy program offered at CSU and the success the program has seen in keeping graduates in regional Australia.

Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences at CSU, Associate Professor Lyn Angel, said the event provided the opportunity to interact and engage pharmacists across the state.

"To be able to talk to pharmacists about how the CSU pharmacy program can assist the profession is invaluable to both staff and students. Events such as this allow us to interact with the industry and pass relevant information on to students who will soon form the future of the profession", said Associate Professor Angel.

Chair of the Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation, Peter Gissing and Australia's first Professor in Rural Pharmacy, Patrick Ball, spoke alongside Associate Professor Angel on the importance of the pharmacy program at CSU and the teaching methods utilised which will equip graduates for practicing in rural Australia.

Local Pharmacist Tony Lawler enjoyed meeting the staff of the University and has subsequently made some enquiries regarding community research on nutrition following a discussion with one of the academics. Lawler's Family Pharmacy has been associated with the Pharmacy Foundation at CSU through the scholarship program since 2005.

"We support the pharmacy program because we believe our support ensures our workforce in future years. We have had very pleasing support from our graduates who have come back to work for us from time to time. Our contacts with students through CSU have been instrumental in getting us through some difficult periods when we were facing workforce issues", said Mr Lawler.

The Charles Sturt Pharmacy Foundation was developed to support the CSU pharmacy program which was established in 1997 with the primary aim of addressing the shortage of pharmacists in rural areas. The Pharmacy Foundation has supported the development of the program by contributing to the establishment of suitable facilities at the Wagga Wagga and Orange campuses and providing scholarships for students.

The Dubbo event follows similar activities which have been hosted in Orange and Albury in 2005.

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