MEDIA RELEASE
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Calling all STEM Educators! 2020 Governor's School STEM Awards are Open!

Applications for the 2020 Governor's School STEM Awards are now open, offering up to $2000 in prize money for Western Australia's outstanding leaders in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) education.

Today, the Hon. Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Science, the Hon. Sue Ellery MLC, Minister for Education and Training, and the Hon. Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, officially launched the Awards with applications open to all Western Australian primary and secondary schools from the public and private sectors.

Now in its sixth year, the Governor's School STEM Awards promote the importance of STEM education by recognising best practice in teaching and learning. By highlighting leadership, the Awards showcase the enthusiasm and methods that ensure real impact for both teachers and students.

Ms Kalien Selby, Chief Executive Officer, Scitech said, "2020 has certainly shown why STEM skills and knowledge are important, with the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrating how scientists are needed to produce vaccines, technologists to design medical equipment and mathematicians to calculate the outcomes of different response scenarios.

"Students graduating this year or in 10 years' time will need STEM skills to navigate the challenges of today and the future. These Awards acknowledge that inspiration and passion for learning STEM begins with our education leaders and that they should be celebrated for championing the importance of STEM education."

The Governor's School STEM Awards are a key initiative supported by the WA State Government and Scitech to encourage students to take up STEM subjects in preparation for the future workforce. The 2020 launch follows the high-profile Take 2 STEM campaign introduced earlier this month, as priority for STEM education and careers ramp up for government, industry and the community alike.

Schools selected as finalists will be honoured at a presentation ceremony in November 2020 and all finalists will be rewarded with a visit to Scitech for up to 60 students per school.

The primary and secondary school who take out the top honour will receive the "Leadership Excellence Award" and $2000, while second prize winners will receive the "Meritorious Leadership Award" and $1000. All four schools will be rewarded with a visit to Scitech for up to 90 students or a Scitech DIY Science Kit, providing a term's worth of lessons.

Scitech is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is to increase awareness, interest, capability and participation by all Western Australians in science, technology, engineering and mathematics

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In 2019, Brookman Primary School and Melville Senior High School were the deserved recipients of the "Leadership Excellence Award" and Hale School and Pannawonica Primary School received the "Meritorious Leadership Award".

In previous years, winners have included Penrhos College, St Mary's Anglican Girls School, John Curtin College of the Arts, Rosalie Primary School and Newton Moore Senior High School.

The Governor's School STEM Awards are delivered through a partnership between Scitech and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. They are proudly supported by the Department of Education, Catholic Education Western Australia, Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA), School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Science Teachers Association of Western Australia (STAWA) and the Mathematical Association of Western Australia (MAWA).

For more information and to download an application form go to: www.scitech.org.au

2020 applications close 10am (AWST) 3 August 2020.

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