Flinders University enjoys a well-justified reputation for its excellence in teaching and research. Flinders has also led the way in providing access to higher education for individuals who did not traditionally aspire to University. Likewise, the South Adelaide Football Club (SAFC), locally-known as the Panthers, has a long history of showing courage in developing and implementing new ideas and better ways to do things. Given both parties' dedication to excellence and innovative thinking, a partnership has been developed that, when combined, will build and strengthen their community activities within the southern Adelaide region.

Objective

The SAFC-Flinders partnership aims to educate and inspire young people, fostering their engagement with positive role models in football and education and focusing on 'healthy mind, healthy body'.

Background

Flinders University enjoys a well-justified reputation for its excellence in teaching and research. Flinders has also led the way in providing access to higher education for individuals who did not traditionally aspire to University. Likewise, the South Adelaide Football Club (SAFC), locally-known as the Panthers, has a long history of showing courage in developing and implementing new ideas and better ways to do things. Given both parties' dedication to excellence and innovative thinking, a partnership has been developed that, when combined, will build and strengthen their community activities within the southern Adelaide region.

Objective

The SAFC-Flinders partnership aims to educate and inspire young people through an innovative range of programs that will operate within southern Adelaide schools. These programs will foster young people’s engagement with positive role models in football and
education, and will focus on “healthy mind, healthy body” connections. The partnership also aims to provide “real world” work experience opportunities for Flinders students in the fields of Education, Health Sciences and Humanities.

Strategy development

Following on from a sponsorship partnership formed between Flinders Marketing and Communications Office and South Adelaide Football Club, Flinders University’s Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership Office initiated a meeting of senior SAFC and staff from Flinders School of Education to explore a range of partnership activities that could involve both students and staff and also benefit the southern Adelaide community. From that first meeting, the newly-formed partnership discussed a range of activities that would involve key members of SAFC and Flinders students working together to develop and implement a number of key initiatives (some new) in southern Adelaide.

Activities

The partnership will provide valuable hands-on work experience that will further develop Flinders students’ employability skills in areas such as communication, initiative, problem solving, team-building, organisation and time management.

The partnership will include Flinders student participation in the following programs run within southern Adelaide schools:

- Auskick
- Panthers “Be Your Best”
- Recreational football
- Sport Education in Physical Education Program
- Nine-a-side carnivals
- Power Cup

The partnership will also include Flinders Education faculty students working with SAFC, and local school teachers providing valuable support developing engaging curricula that motivates and educates young people about the value of healthy and active lifestyles. The programs will be conducted throughout the year, with Flinders students participating in both short and longer blocks of placements within each program. The programs will pull from the resources of Flinders’ best-practice teaching methods and health and nutrition expertise, as well as provide assessable credit points towards a student’s degree. Flinders Creative Arts/Creative Writing honour students will also participate in a range of communication projects, such as interviewing Panthers staff and players, writing of media releases and newsletters while undertaking “work integrated learning” at SAFC.

Other initiatives being developed include:
- The conduct of valuable research on a range of topics by Flinders academic staff
- Professional development programs developed and delivered by Flinders academics for SAFC coaching staff
- Potential for workforce, career planning career type expo

For more information contact Darlene Voss, Manager Education Partnerships, Southern Knowledge Transfer Partnership Office:

P: 8201 7679
E: Darlene.voss@flinders.edu.au
W: www.flinders.edu.au/sktp