Vision

VSSEC Advisory Group

The VSSEC Advisory Group was established in 2007 to provide advice on the Centre’s operation and future direction. It consists of representatives of organisations with a common interest in the promotion of STEM education. The group meets once per school term, acts as a review and recommendation body and provides the opportunity for the exchange of information. The Advisory Group aims to promote the long-term sustainability of the Centre’s role in promoting innovation in science education.

The Advisory Group includes representatives from VSSEC, Strathmore Secondary College, VSSEC’s University partners, a University Education Faculty, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

Current VSSEC Advisory Group:
- Michael Pakakis (Director VSSEC)
- Jill English (Principal, Strathmore Secondary College)
- Peter Dyson (Emeritus Professor, Latrobe University)
- Marian Anderson (Monash University)
- Glenda Graham (Victoria Division Executive Director, Engineers Australia)
- Peter Burridge, (Senior Lecturer Victoria University)
- Maria James (Science, VCAA)
- Brett Biddington AM (Industry Representative)

Staff

The VSSEC curriculum is created by a team of experienced educators and writers. They divide their time between curriculum development and design, face-to-face teaching and hosting professional development. They represent a broad spectrum of academic disciplines including geology and palaeontology; astronomy and astrophysics; human bio-science, exercise and sport science; mathematics and computational mathematics; analytical and environmental chemistry; evolutionary and microbiology; software engineering and education; physics; engineering (electronic, mechanical and aeronautical); information technology and AV, and even history and literature.

Programs are carefully crafted to satisfy the learning needs of students across Victoria, offering hands-on immersive learning and are delivered by full-time educators working as a team with undergraduate and postgraduate students from a range of universities and disciplines. They are academically skilled, but are also chosen for their communication skills. As a result, they relate very well to students, embodying the concept that further studies in Maths and Science at senior secondary and tertiary level are worthwhile and have tangible outcomes.
Programs

Though its programs are available across all education sectors, VSSEC is philosophically committed to improving learning outcomes for the educationally disadvantaged, both urban and rural.

VSSEC applies the latest educational research to the development of effective programs for primary and secondary students, with a focus on scenario-based curricula. VCE students are offered Chemistry and Physics programs. New programs are constantly evolving and all curriculum design is in line with the Victorian Curriculum and VCE standards.

VSSEC’s programs support dedicated subject and cross-curricular domains and are delivered in context, highlighting career and study paths. They are run at the Centre, as outreach and online.

@ VSSEC, a Planetary Surface Simulation Room immerses students in the world of space. Redesigned in line with discoveries of the Curiosity Rover (2011), the surface reproduces a small crater on Mars, and is enclosed in an inflatable dome backlit with pre-programmed special effect. It is digitally linked to the fixed dedicated Mission Control Room. A general purpose computer lab (the Massimo Room) and a flexible teaching environment (Central Space) are both supported by integrated digital technologies. The 3D theatre sets the scene for the programs.

Outreach programs are designed to be flexible. They can be tailored to suit individual schools’ timetable, and can be run multiple times, for multiple classes, over periods ranging from one to four days. The visiting VSSEC team comes complete with all requirements; in most cases, a “box” is left at the school as a future resource, together with accompanying lesson plans and background information. All programs are hands-on and written in line with the Vic Curriculum.

Custom-designed programs are also offered Online, including those of the The Advanced Science Institute which incorporates a series of instructional programs for Year 10 focused on 21st century emergent scientific research based on the four Cs of learning: Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Thinking. Its aim is to offer challenging and contemporary programs designed to stimulate students to pursue courses and careers in STEM-related areas.