



Royal
Astronomical
Society

The 2024 Higher Education Award is awarded to Dr David Cornwell

Dr David Cornwell has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to undergraduate and postgraduate geophysics teaching over a number of years.

In particular, he has used his knowledge as a mental health first aider to provide individual support and mentoring to many students, supporting their personal wellbeing, and stressing the importance of that wellbeing to their professional success.

He has also extended that support to colleagues, especially during the COVID pandemic through the creating of a School of Geosciences Mental Health Action Group.

Also, during the pandemic, he mitigated the impact of isolation on students by creating an online mentorship programme between students and industry partners, which was praised by both mentors and mentees as a “win-win” and “a great story during a very wired year”.

As a strong promoter of EDI activities he has even turned his own health challenges into an opportunity by becoming a role model for the Lightyear Foundation in a project that aims at “breaking down barriers to disabled children taking part in STEM”.

Overall his impact can be summed up in the words of a colleague: “Dave never stops being an enthusiastic teacher, approachable supervisor and mentor, reliable colleague, and the friendly smiling face on the screen in any online meeting”.

For these reasons, Dr David Cornwell is awarded the RAS Higher Education Award, 2024.