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Student goals teacher’s reward

Tessa Akerman

BECOMING a teacher and staying in Port Augusta was not part of Alice Archibald's plans when she was younger. "I was never going to be a teacher but my friends told me that I would be a teacher," she said. "I ended up doing a Bachelor of Education after doing a Bachelor of International Studies."

Ms Archibald has been at Carlton School for more than seven years, teaching high school students, serving as a counsellor and now teaching primary school.

"It's quite challenging but fun as well," she said.

In addition to traditional classes Ms Archibald also helps out in teaching Adnyamathanha, one of the local Aboriginal dialects. "All the kids in my class identify as being Aboriginal so I'm just learning so much from them and from their families as well," she said.

Ms Archibald said it was a common misconception that teachers' expectations were different when working with Indigenous students.

"It's important to have the same expectations as if you were working at any other school," she said. "It's important to let the kids know what your expectations are and that they're being successful but challenged as well."

Her own school experience has inspired and influenced her teaching methods.

"I was pretty lucky with all my teachers so I guess I have just got bits and pieces from everyone," she said. "I'm constantly learning new things as well and trying new things." She said working with children and seeing their progress are some of the best parts of the job.

"I love seeing them get excited about their achievements, and their honesty as well. "I work with really great staff as well. There's just something about the school. I was only coming to Port Augusta for one year and then seven and a half years later, I haven't left."

Ms Archibald received a nomination for The Advertiser State Government Public Teaching Awards. Regional winners will be named later this month.