

**Statement from the Prize Committee:**

Telemark University College is awarded a split first prize for the project "Mentoring of newly qualified teachers in kindergartens, schools and secondary schools"

The Committee has emphasized that the program seems well organized, is of a considerable size and has contributed to enhance quality in education. The project has also been an important impetus to or provided important impulses for vocational research and development to teacher education.

It is documented that for a teacher, the early stages of his or her career may be a unique learning experience. The aim of the project is to promote educational quality in kindergartens and schools by maintaining and developing further the skills and competencies of newly educated teachers through their encounters with learning organisations.

The project has demonstrated that cooperation between the college and the field of practice leads to innovation and development of knowledge that is essential for both parties: The colleges gain experience with the relevance of their teacher education programmes when newly qualified teachers first meet their new place of work. This provides a basis for further development of theory. Kindergarten and school owners on their part get professional assistance in mentoring and training of the teaching staff in kindergartens and schools. This provides an interesting starting point for reviewing existing teacher education programmes and strengthening the relevance of teacher education.

Results: TUC started the project as a local pilot project in 1997 and today leads the Norwegian Network for Mentoring Newly Qualified Teachers. The network includes most teacher education institutions in Norway and involves monitoring and supervision of newly qualified teachers in a large number of Norwegian municipalities. The Norwegian parliament (Stortinget) has passed a resolution saying that systematic mentoring should be offered to all newly qualified teachers.

(Unauthorized translation by Telemark University College)