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# Nicola's award for pushing subjects



**ALERT:** Nicola Morris, left, and Elaine Roll, also a member of staff at the college in Newquay, discovering an Australian flatworm.

A former Cornwall College student of the year has won a prestigious award in recognition of her work in promoting science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Nicola Morris, who is now the project co-ordinator for the Student Invasive Non-Native Group (SINNG), based at Cornwall College Newquay, educates students about the local environment and specifically about non-native invasive species and the damage they can cause waterways, wildlife and the environment in general.

### Ambassadors

Nicola, who was one of only five STEM Ambassadors in the South West to gain the award, said: "I am overwhelmed to receive this award from Careers South West.

"I love my job as an ambassador and project co-ordinator for SINNG. I enjoy educating others about our environment. It is a real passion, so to receive an award for doing something I love is fantastic.

"The opportunities as a result of my being an ambassador have not only enabled me to try to inspire young people to get as excited about science as I am, but also opened up new opportunities for me. It's a fantastic scheme to be a part of."

### Inspiring

Dr Andrew Smart, head of Cornwall College Newquay, said: "Nicola's work as a project co-ordinator for SINNG is inspiring. Nicola and her team of Newquay students have visited many schools and attended lots of community events, to help educate the public and children about the hazards of non-native species.

"They have invested a lot of time and effort into making education fun by inventing games the children can play, creating easy-to-read display boards and learning all they can about the subject to ensure they can answer any questions. Nicola is a key member of the team at Cornwall College Newquay and really deserves this award."

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# Award for hunting invaders

A TEACHER at Cornwall College Newquay – named Student of the Year while taking the course herself – has now won another award for her teaching.

Nicola Morris was honoured by Careers South West for her work in promoting science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to students at Cornwall College and pupils in many schools all over Cornwall.

Nicola teaches students about the local environment and specifically about non-native invasive species and the damage they can cause waterways, wildlife and the environment in general. She is project co-ordinator for the college's Student Invasive Non-Native Group (SINNG), which studies such species and removes them from the Cornish environment.

Nicola was one of only five STEM Ambassadors in the South West to gain the Careers South West award and said: "I'm overwhelmed.

"I enjoy educating others



**SCIENCE DETECTIVES:** Nicola Morris, left, and Cornwall College colleague Elaine Roll with an invasive Australian flatworm found in Cornwall.

about our environment – it's a real passion – so to receive an award for doing something I love is fantastic.

"The opportunities which have presented themselves as a result of my being an ambassador have not only enabled me to try to inspire young people to get as excited about science as I am, but also

opened up new opportunities for me. It's a fantastic scheme to be a part of."

The college's head Dr Andrew Smart said: "Nicola's work as a project co-ordinator for SINNG is inspiring.

"Nicola's a key member of the team at Cornwall College Newquay and really deserves this award."