Festival of Learning Showcase

**Facilitator(s):** Dr Paul Cozens, Senior Lecturer, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

**Strategic theme:** Rich, interactive learning experience

**Subject Title:** The role of an experiential field trip in a first year unit in urban and regional planning

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**Brief Description (Abstract used at T&L Forum):**

This paper reports on strategies to reorganise a first year undergraduate unit around the principles of Dale’s ‘cone of experience’ (1946) and Gardner’s (1983) ‘multiple intelligences’. Modifications were designed to improve the content and delivery of Suburban Analysis, a unit in the Urban and Regional Planning degree. This was directed at enhancing the teaching of this unit and increasing student satisfaction and retention rates. The authors drew on the inter-related and shared principles of planning good suburbs and of delivering good teaching, such as considering and promoting diversity, inclusion and participation. Using several key educational theories, classes were delivered using a combination of traditional didactic methods and kinesthetic learning styles. The unit content and assessments were streamlined and inter-connected through the use of short lectures, weekly reading / discussions, videos and music, the analysis of census data and an experiential fieldtrip. This field trip was a crucial component to the unit and was designed to encourage ‘learning by doing’, to ground theory and concepts, and to nurture social capital within the class. Students’ evaluation and satisfaction associated with the unit are presented as evidence of the success of this redesign over a period of five years. *Kent Turkich and Paul Cozens*

**Benefits:** Learn how to use a field trip to engage students with a unit more enthusiastically

**Time/Day:** Thursday 19th March 3.30 – 4.00pm

**Duration:** 20 minute presentation

**No. of Sessions:** One

**Venue:** Building 105.107

**Special Requirements:** No special requirements needed

**Abstract used at T&L Forum:** As above