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: Project-based learning: An initiative to enliven a first year unit in urban and regional planning

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Brief Description:

This study is about a project-based learning (PBL) initiative designed to enliven the teaching program for a first year unit in an Urban and Regional Planning course. The initiative used a humanistic and experiential pedagogy in an attempt to more deeply engage the enthusiasm, emotion, values and intellect of first year students. In tying the teaching program to the production of field based research for a local redevelopment authority, students were enlisted in the analysis of industry documents, field survey development and implementation, and data interpretation. They presented their findings to the redevelopment authority as both a seminar and an industry-quality written report. Through interviews with the students, academics and industry professionals involved in the initiative, along with student feedback data, this study considers the successes and challenges involved in implementing PBL in the context of Urban and Regional Planning. Further, it seeks to understand how humanistic and cognitive learning processes were activated through the project. Finally, an evaluation of the potential for PBL to invigorate teaching and learning within the first year of university is given. Kent Turkich and Paul Cozens

Benefits: How to help teachers to engage students using real-world problems and project-based learning

Time/Day: Friday 20th March 11.30 – 12.00

Duration: 20 minutes presentation

No. of Sessions: One

Venue: Building 105.107

Special Requirements: No special requirements needed

Abstract used at T&L Forum: As above