Festival of Learning Showcase

Facilitator(s): Mrs Sonia Ferns, project Lead, Work Integrated Learning, Curtin Teaching and Learning

Strategic theme: Equipping graduates for the future

Subject Title: Economic productivity and sustainability: Evidencing the impact of work integrated learning

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Brief Description:

Social, cultural, political and economic factors collectively and individually impact on a globally competitive job market. The need for a productive, sustainable and efficient economy where employees are sufficiently skilled to meet the demands of a highly competitive and constantly changing workforce is increasingly important. The recognition that education is fundamental to an accomplished and high-capacity population has resulted in external stakeholders seeking evidence that graduates have acquired the necessary capabilities throughout their studies, to contribute to a buoyant, unpredictable and variable workforce.

WIL pedagogy enables the integration of theory and practice, and develops the capacity to think critically, creatively and innovatively. This presentation provides an overview of the rigorous research design and methodology employed in an Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) project Assessing the impact of work integrated learning on student work-readiness. The primary focus of the project was to ascertain an evidence-base for the impact of work integrated learning (WIL) on the development of students’ employability capabilities. Emerging evidence supports the concept that student engagement and motivation is enhanced through experiencing real world opportunities and obtaining feedback from industry practitioners. Data were collected from multiple stakeholders enabling triangulated data sets.

The presentation highlights preliminary findings emerging from the research and the impact on curriculum design and the student experience. The research highlighted six dimensions of employability that emerged from an extensive literature review which informed the design of data-collecting instruments. The findings from this OLT project provide the basis for leveraging future WIL research and informing resourcing requirements.

Time/Day: Thursday 19 March 2015; 2:00 – 2:30pm
Duration: 30 mins
No. of Sessions: One
Venue: Building 300:Rm 217
Special Requirements: No special requirements needed