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: Working together to achieve improved work integrated learning (WIL) outcomes in WA: Enhancing productivity through better employer involvement

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Description and Abstract from T&L Forum:
Many issues impact the implementation of work integrated learning (WIL) in higher education. These include difficulties in effectively engaging with employers when organising WIL opportunities and achieving high student productivity during the WIL experience. This research project is designed to develop and trial effective approaches that will increase employer understanding of, and engagement in, WIL opportunities in WA Business Schools. It is undertaken by an alliance of WA universities for the Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN), in association with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia (CCIWA). In partnership, the project team will explore approaches to improve employer engagement in WIL; effective support requirements to improve WIL outcomes for all stakeholders; and ways of enhancing productive and mutually beneficial partnerships between industry and universities.

A survey of CCIWA members is currently gathering feedback on their experiences in WIL. Focus groups will further explore employer needs and innovative approaches to delivering WIL in different businesses. Data analysis will determine key issues in improving employer engagement in WIL; partnership models that facilitate employer participation; and inform the design of an employer support/advisory service, trialled by CCIWA during 2015. Data on the volume and nature of support provided to employers through the advisory service, and a final survey among participants, will gauge its impact and usefulness for improving the WIL process. Strategies on setting up an employer support service to improve future WIL outcomes will be identified.

Denise Jackson, Edith Cowan University, Sonia Ferns, Curtin University, Pamela Struthers, Murdoch University, and Diane McLaren, The University of Western Australia

Time/Day: Monday 16 March 2015, 3:00 – 3:30pm

Duration: 30 mins

No. of Sessions: One

Venue: Building 300:Room 216

Special Requirements: No special requirements needed