Festival of Learning Showcase

Facilitator(s): Dr Romana Martin and Associate Professor Tania Broadley, Curtin Learning Institute and Robyn Chien, Faculty of Health Sciences

Strategic theme: Rich, interactive learning experience

Subject Title: Expanding the reach of the classroom with distributed learning: The student experience

Brief Description:

A key element of the transformational teaching and learning agenda of Curtin University has been the introduction of distributed learning. The learning advantages afforded by distributed learning include the possibility of engaging students in synchronous face to face collaborative group-based learning activities virtually extending the classroom and overcoming the isolation of distance. A pilot project launched in 2013 focused on video conference-based collaborative learning between the city-based University Campus and a class at a remote Pilbara campus in the far North of Western Australia. The aim of the project was to distribute education to nursing students, with the view to broadening this learning approach to a range of health professional students in the future. A comprehensive evaluation was undertaken throughout the pilot with a key focus on the student experience of distributed learning.

Benefits: In this session, the student experience of the distributed learning model will be highlighted drawing on student feedback, and the successes, challenges and lessons learnt from this approach by the local and distant students. The innovative model of distributed learning adopted has significant potential to expand the reach of tertiary education into rural and remote Australia, smoothing the transition of regional students to university life and helping to improve ongoing sustainability of the local health workforce, and the wider community.

Romana Martin, Tania Broadley and Hanna Teras, Curtin Learning Institute, Curtin University Kristi Holloway and Robyn Chien, Faculty of Health Science, Curtin University

Time/Day: Friday 20 March 2015; 11:00 – 11:30am

Duration: 30 mins

No. of Sessions: One

Venue: Building 105:107

Special Requirements: No special requirements needed