WPLN Convenor’s Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of our WPLN Update.

WPLN (Workplace Learning Network) is a communication network and community of practice for all CSU workplace learning staff, both admin and academic. WPLN works closely with and is supported by the Education For Practice Institute (EFPI).

With renewed emphases on student experience and courses in the CSU Strategic Plan (2011-2015), WPL will be a priority across CSU’s faculties and divisions in 2012. We need you to get involved and have a say in WPL matters.

In this Update, find out about campus visits in 2012. Come and meet other people involved in WPL from across the university. Be alert for news of the new WPL Policy and consider signing up for the Academic Leadership for Workplace Learning Coordinators. We introduce one of our members, Emma Scholz and discuss the new database InPlace.

For inquiries about WPLN, or to add something for our next Update, please contact Frances Colquhoun ... her details are inside as well!

Wendy Bowles, WPLN Coordinator

Coming Events

WPLN Workshop – Wagga
22 March 10:00 – 12:00
• Latest developments in WPL Policy
• Preparing and supporting supervisors of WPL students

Practice-Based Education Workshop – Wagga
22 March 2012 – 1:00 – 3:00
• Simulated Practice-Based Learning

EFPI Lunchtime VC Seminar
26 March 2012 12:30 – 1:30
• Innovations in WPL

PBE Summit: Education for Practice, Work & Society
3 – 4 April 2012
Sydney Olympic Park

Leadership for Workplace Learning Coordinators
Albury
28 – 29 May General Staff
30 – 31 May Academic Staff
27 July All Staff

New website

Check out the new WPLN website at http://csusap.csu.edu.au/~fcolquho/wpln.htm

If you have any suggestions about how we can improve the website or items that could be added, please let us know.
Academic Leadership for Workplace Learning Coordinators

The Academic Leadership for Workplace Learning Coordinators Program has been designed to assist academic and administrative staff responsible for coordinating Workplace Learning, practicum, professional experience, internships and extra-mural or clinical placements. By supporting the development of knowledge and skills in academic leadership the Program aims to assist Workplace Learning coordinators to create a vision of what a Workplace Learning program might be and foster a culture that supports quality work-integrated-learning experiences.

Funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) and based on a survey of Workplace Learning coordinators at Curtin and Charles Sturt Universities, Academic Leadership for Workplace Learning Coordinators has been carefully tailored to meet the needs of academic staff in this role.

Who would benefit

This Program is designed for staff who have academic, managerial and administrative responsibility for the development and maintenance of high quality Workplace Learning programs. It is relevant for:

- Experienced and less experienced Workplace Learning coordinators
- Workplace Learning coordinators seeking professional development tailored to their role

What does it involve?

The Program is delivered in a two-day intensive block followed by a further four hour workshop. The sessions will be highly interactive, utilise problem based learning and participants will have the opportunity to draw on their own experiences and share challenges and solutions across disciplines. Participants will also be asked to develop a six-month action learning plan related to their own particular developmental needs, which will be based on the identification of areas for improvement through a 360° leadership survey. A range of resources will be available, including self-directed online materials. Pre and post Program activities will also be included to support and evaluate personal leadership development.

Program benefits and learning outcomes

Benefits from successful participation in the Program include:

Access to a leadership development program tailored for Workplace Learning coordinators

Development of life-long learning skills to enhance leadership development

- Engagement with the current debates and literature on work-integrated-learning
- Opportunities to enhance career prospects through Workplace Learning coordination
- Develop strategies and skills to enhance your Workplace Learning program and student learning experiences
- Network and engage with fellow Workplace Learning coordinators
- An opportunity to work through an Action Learning Project which can be used for professional portfolio activity as well as a scholarly paper/conference presentation

Program learning outcomes:

- Develop key leadership skills to achieve quality Workplace Learning experiences grounded in an understanding of contemporary work-integrated-learning pedagogy
- Integrate the six key managerial leadership roles required for work-integrated-learning to progress leadership development
- Demonstrate the ability to self-manage leadership development using the Integrated Competing Values Framework (Vilkinas & Cartans, 2006) (validated academic leadership tool)
- Apply the scholarship of work-integrated-learning to an action learning plan

Dates:

Part 1
28 – 29 May General Staff
30 – 31 May Academic Staff

Part 2
27 July Academic & General Staff

Venue:

Gordon Beavan Boardroom
Albury-Wodonga Campus

Lunch and refreshments provided

Register:

Please advise that you are attending by 20 April 2012 by emailing Frances Colquhoun
fcolquhoun@csu.edu.au

Enquiries:

Associate Professor Megan Smith
mesmith@csu.edu.au

WPLN Workshop

Wagga 22 March 2012
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Room: James Hagan Court,
Meeting Room 1

- Latest developments in WPL Policy and structures
- Preparing and supporting supervisors of WPL students

Please register for this workshop by Thursday 8 March 2012 To register, please contact Frances Colquhoun
fcolquhoun@csu.edu.au
Simulated Practice-Based Learning
Wagga 22 March 2012
Room: James Hagan Court Boardroom

Convener: Teresa Swirski

The aims of this workshop are:

- To present examples of simulated practice-based learning
- Share ideas and resources related to simulated practice-based learning
- For participants to discuss opportunities and challenges for simulated practice-based learning to be applied within their own disciplinary contexts

To register, please contact Frances Colquhoun fcolquhoun@csu.edu.au

EFPI VC Lunchtime Seminars

Theme: Innovations in Workplace Learning
26 March 2012 12:30 – 1:00

Join a panel of CSU academics who will present their innovations in workplace learning.

VC locations:
- VC Admin Sydney;
- VC Admin BA 819;
- VC Admin GO 719;
- VC Admin OR 735;
- VC LTS 15 WW 749;
- VC Admin GB TH 704.

Workplace Learning Policy

Dr Edwina Adams

Wendy Bowles completed an EFPI teaching fellowship in early 2011 mapping WPL policy at CSU. As a result of the findings from the fellowship report, a WPL Continuous Quality Improvement report was submitted by EFPI to the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic). This report identified a substantial risk to the University’s reputation and to the quality of WPL conducted at CSU, due to the lack of an overarching policy directing the management and implementation of WPL.

The EFPI WPL Consultative Committee supported the creation of a WPL working party to develop an overarching WPL Policy. The primary aim of the Policy was to bring a standard of practice to the key aspects of WPL thereby ensuring an appropriate level of quality management and teaching and learning.

InPlace Update

Mark Westerman

Phase 1 – was completed prior to Christmas 2011 to enable use of InPlace by these Schools in Session 2012-30:
- Biomedical Sciences
- Dentistry and Health Sciences
- Nursing, Midwifery and Indigenous Health
- Community Health

Implementation of this phase is largely complete. Schools were provided with “refresher” training periods on their return from Christmas ensuring they were comfortable with the system.

The hard yards have been completed which includes the data integration between CSU’s systems (Banner, CASIMS etc) and InPlace. InPlace is now fully operational and all WPL subjects and the students enrolled in those subjects have been loaded.
There are some housekeeping technical requirements still requiring some attention however these will be addressed before the next implementation phase commences.

We will be piloting InPlace with students in the coming weeks. Di Plunkett from Occupational Therapy has agreed to help us with this. We will use feedback from these students to help us design appropriate training materials for all students that will use InPlace in the future. All of the schools implemented are starting to use InPlace to varying degrees. It is anticipated that all of these schools will use InPlace to manage all aspects of their placements by second session.

Implementation – Phase 2 and 3
We are planning to roll out the following schools in session one:
- Education
- Psychology
- Animal and Veterinary Sciences
- Environmental Sciences
- Business & Accounting
- Ag and Wine Sciences
- Computing and Maths
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Info Studies

We have already scheduled training for all of these schools and attendees have been invited. Training and configuration is planned during the weeks of:
- 26th March
- 14th May
- 4th June

We would like to thank everyone who has been part of the project to date and we are looking forward to completing the training over the coming months.

If anyone has any questions please contact
Mark Westerman
mwesterman@csu.edu.au or Kris Harrison
kharrison@csu.edu.au

WPLN Profile

Emma Scholz
School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences

I came to CSU in 2009 from a background in mixed veterinary practice. My strongest motivations for entering academia were to help students become practitioners who can thrive, and not just cope in practice. I coordinate 3 subjects in the vet course- a second year professional practice subject that incorporates workplace learning, role-play in teaching professional communication and practical skills as diverse as pregnancy diagnosis in the cow and horse dentistry. I also coordinate 2 final year external clinical rotation subjects, with students placed in practices from northern NSW to Western Victoria. As well as supporting student learning, developing and sustaining mutually beneficial relationships with external practitioners is central to my work.

Highlights of my role here have been undertaking the Academic Leadership for Fieldwork Coordinators program with EFPI in 2011, as well as a Teaching Fellowship with EFPI under the mentorship of Dr Franziska Trede.

As a result, I am embarking on a PhD exploring workplace learning in my profession. Forming relationships across the university with others involved in WPL has been an unexpected pleasure of working here at CSU. There is a strong sense of collegiality, and I am always amazed and grateful for the willingness of others to share their hard-earned wisdom. Different disciplines share so many of the same issues- what unites us is always greater than what divides us.

ACEN Scholarships

The Australian Collaborative Education Network (ACEN) is the professional association for practitioners and researchers from the tertiary education sector, industry, community and government, involved in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) in Australia.

In 2012 ACEN will be offering five scholarships, each valued at $1,500, to assist students undertaking placements. The scholarships are open to final year students in all disciplines from institutions that are financial members of ACEN.

The placement must be:
- Undertaken in 2012
- In rural and remote locations which requires students to relocate from their home address
- Fulltime (4-5 days per week for a minimum of three weeks duration)
- Within Australia

The scholarships will be awarded on a basis of the achievement of WIL outcomes plus evidence of hardship. Supporting evidence will be requested during the application process.