Abstracts: Workshops

Embedding ways to enhance employability skills in teaching practice

Gerard Duignan¹,², John Hitchcock¹,², Carmel Haggerty¹,², Agustilia Rodrigues³, Cath Fraser⁴, Brian Dillon⁴, Malcolm Hardy⁴, Deb Stewart⁵, Scott Casley⁵, Kate Ross⁶, Beverly Taylor¹, Anne Webster¹ and Stephen Hannam⁷.

¹ Wellington Institute of Technology; ² Whitireia New Zealand; ³ Universal College of Learning; ⁴ Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology; ⁵ Eastern Institute of Technology; ⁶ Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology; ⁷ Taratahi Agricultural Training Centre

This interactive workshop will explore an Ako Aotearoa Regional Hub funded collaborative research project undertaken by a dozen educational developers from eight Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs). The project team sought to identify where and how teachers embed ways of enhancing their learners’ skills for employability, life-long learning and contributing to society. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and other stakeholders seek evidence of the effectiveness of programmes of study in preparing graduates for industry. Inspired by keynote speaker Shelly Kinash at the 2016 NTLT conference, who described Australian research on university preparation for employability, the project team wondered how it might assist teachers in ITPs to design teaching and learning strategies for embedding skills that enhance employability. Literature revealed a concern about employability skills gaps by teachers, institutions and industry, but very little about how this is being addressed in teaching practice. The research describes a number of case studies arising from classroom observations and interviews of a range of effective teachers, across various institutions, subject areas and NQF levels. The team referred to the Employability Skills Framework released in 2017, which New Zealand and international employers say are essential for getting and keeping a job, such as positive attitude, communication, teamwork, self-management, willingness to learn, thinking skills, resilience, plus other employability attributes.

The outcome of the research is a toolkit of commonly used practices titled Guidelines for Good-practice in Embedding Employability Skills. These are easy to embed into teaching practice and likely to be effective for learners in diverse contexts.

Experiencing G Suite in an applied technology context

Josh Burrell and Dan Taylor
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology

This workshop is a follow up to the presentation, Exploring Key Benefits of G Suite in Teaching & Learning, and uses Applied Technology as its context, although anyone can attend.

Participants will be taken through the Google Classroom workflow and experience from a student and teacher perspective how this software can be used as a teaching and learning tool. G Suite provides teachers with excellent tools for increasing the visibility of student work throughout the learning process, therefore giving them the ability to provide targeted and timely intervention and feedback to assist with student achievement. Participants will be guided through a typical learning activity in the applied technology area, starting from evidence being collected in the field using a mobile device, uploading to cloud storage, creating a presentation document and the assignment submission and feedback flow.