



Concurrent Session C
Monday 31 August
1.30pm – 2.20pm

Session 1

Getting It Right: Measuring Success in the Development of Collaborative Contemporary Teaching and Learning Spaces

Carol Home

Unitec Institute of Technology

Carol is currently a Faculty Operations Manager at Unitec Institute of Technology in Auckland. Having spent the first 12 years of her career as a teacher, and then on to management roles, Carol feels her experience as an educational practitioner has given her an advantage when working between academic and operational needs and expectations. Unitec is on the brink of a major development phase, finally bringing it out of the '80's. Carol works closely with Facilities Management and Learning and Teaching teams to help develop the new teaching and working space ideas, and has been involved in communications relating to the new ways of working and operating. She recently organised a whole-institution conference focused on the transformation of Unitec.

Carol has just completed a Master's degree in Management from Charles Sturt University, and also has a mentoring role for the LH Martin Emerging Leaders and Managers Programme.

In 2014, Carol was awarded the TEFMA Travel Scholarship.

Many intuitions are designing and building collaborative contemporary teaching and learning spaces. Some features are consistent within these spaces, such as scattered tables, each catering for up to six students and dispersed computer screens. However, each also has its own characteristics with some being more successful than others.

I was fortunate to win a TEFMA Scholarship to undertake a structured study tour to investigate the factors that constitute a successful collaborative learning and teaching space. I visited four different Australian universities to investigate different models and approaches to collaborative learning spaces, with a view to gaining an understanding of what works, what doesn't and how success is measured. Interviews were conducted with teaching and learning leaders, facilities management teams and lecturers.

This presentation covers the drivers behind the set-up and configuration of the spaces, and success factors and what the measures were in terms of pedagogical outcomes. It also correlates feedback from lecturing staff on how they felt about the various collaborative spaces and what teaching and learning style they found worked best. Importantly, it also provides details on what would be done differently next time.

The presentation will consider my findings, and will describe how these will contribute to planning future collaborative learning and teaching spaces.