Fellow Profile

Associate Professor Jacquelin McDonald
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Jacquie McDonald is a Higher Education Community of Practice consultant. Since 2006 she has facilitated, researched, published, and coached the implementation of Higher Education Communities of Practice, both nationally and internationally.

Fellowship title: CDP: community, domain, practice: facilitator catch cry for revitalising learning and teaching through communities of practice

Year completed: 2012

Expertise key words: Communities of Practice, Facilitation, Social Learning Leadership

What did you achieve?: My Fellowship was designed to build the capacity of Facilitators of Communities of Practice (CoPs) at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). Three essential CoP elements, building community, growing domain knowledge and sharing practice, provide the CoP organising structure, with voluntary participation and member driven agendas. Workshops, establishment of a Facilitators’ CoP, Teaching Fellow coaching, and resources located on the USQ web page (since archived), supported CoP activities. Identified outcomes include – professional conversations and mentoring around learning and teaching, CoPs as reference groups and inspiration, a toolkit for first year course leaders and fostering reflection and scholarly practice. Up to 22 CoPs, including academic and professional, topic and cohort CoPs evolved, with CoPs becoming integral to the University’s Faculty and USQ strategic plans. CoPs were recognised through an ALTC citation (2009) and USQ CoPs received a 2009 Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) commendation.


What does the sector need now?: We need to create social learning spaces where both educators and students join together, engaging in collaborative learning to meet their personal, professional and society needs.