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# Fellow Profile

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## Associate Professor Keith Willey The University of Sydney

Associate Professor Keith Willey is the Professor in Engineering Leadership Education, Director of the Integrated Engineering Program and Co- director of the FEIT Educational Innovation Unit at the University of Sydney.

**Fellowship title:** Improving Learning and Developing Professional Judgment in Large Classes Through Collaboration and Self and Peer Assessment.

**Year completed:** 2012

**Expertise key words:** Self and Peer Assessment, Engineering Education Research, Professional Skill Development

**What did you achieve?:** Despite momentum for assessment to change from ‘assessment of learning’ to ‘assessment for learning’ many academics view assessment primarily as a means for students to demonstrate what they have learnt. Conversely, learning-oriented assessment embeds learning in assessment, reconfiguring its design to emphasise the function of learning. Students should also be involved in the assessment process to develop their judgement and receive feedback, to be reflectively feed-forward to improve subsequent contributions and learning.

My Fellowship enabled me to disseminate tools, resources, frameworks and methodologies developed through years of research to a broad audience across many academic institutions and disciplines. It assisted academics to adopt, design, and implement collaborative learning-oriented activities incorporating the innovative use of self and peer assessment. It also assisted academics to improve the quality of grading and feedback provided to students and to develop, construct and maintain academic standards.

A combination of workshops, presentations and individual support and resources were provided to disseminate and adapt tested practices to individual contexts. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of SPARKPLUS, a tool that facilitates self and peer assessment and provides feedback on an individual’s contribution to a team project, individual work or enables participants to benchmark their judgement and reasoning against their peers and/or an expert instructor.

Since my fellowship, I have continued my educational research and advocacy for improvements in educational practice, student learning and their learning experience. I have extended my network and scholarship through activities associated with being a Principal Fellow of the HEA and a member of the International Federation of National Teaching Fellows.

**What does the sector need now?:** Blended learning has helped STEM curriculum move beyond a focus on technical knowledge acquisition. However, developing students’ lifelong learning identity trajectory should also be mandatory.



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