

CLASS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

MAY 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 18: Project Development Workshop for Subject Coordinators, UTS

July 6-9: CLASS Project Workshop Presentation at HERDSA Conference, Melbourne

July 30: CLASS Project Newsletter Volume 1, Issue 2 Published

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CLASS Project

Coordinators Leading Advancement of Sessional Staff (CLASS) is a project that has been funded by the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC). The project aims to support and enhance subject coordinators' leadership and management of sessional teaching teams by developing quality processes, practices and resources that can be used across institutions.

The CLASS project will:

- develop contextually appropriate resources for coordinators to use in their leadership and management of sessional teaching teams
- enhance coordinators' capacity to lead their teaching teams in the context of their own subjects.
- engage coordinators in reflective practices about their own leadership development within a collegial and supportive network of peers.
- establish and disseminate good practice models for leadership and management of sessional teaching teams
- identify and promote the alignment between policy and practice

Professional Development Workshop

A major initiative of the CLASS project is a Professional Development Workshop, designed explicitly to address aspects related to coordinators' leadership and management of sessional teaching teams. A pilot of the Workshop will be facilitated at the University of Technology Sydney, on Friday June 18, 2010, 10am — 4pm, with 10 subject coordinators from each of the four initial partner institutions (University of Wollongong, Australian Catholic University, University of Technology Sydney and University of Western Sydney) participating in the program. (More information available on page 2)

LEAD

INSTITUTION:

University of Wollongong



PARTNER

INSTITUTIONS:



UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

University of
Western Sydney
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Professional Development

The CLASS project Professional Development Workshop Program will address issues related to coordinators' leadership and management of sessional teaching teams. There will also be a major focus on adapting the Integrated Competing Values Framework (ICVF) (Vilkinas et al., 2009), for use in leading and managing sessional teaching teams.

In addition to unpacking and contextualizing the ICVF, the Workshop Program

sessions will explore with participants:

- capabilities and practices related to effective leadership in higher education;
- strategies for implementing an action learning project; and
- resources that have and will be developed to support coordinators in leading and managing sessional teaching teams.

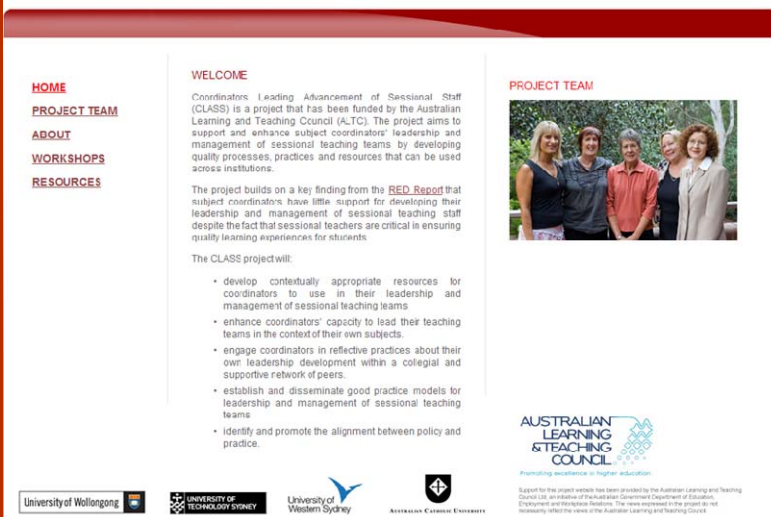
The Workshop Program,

which will be piloted on June 18, 2010 at the University of Technology Sydney, will be evaluated by participants to inform any further developments that are necessary prior to implementation of the Program with cascade partner institutions in Semester One, 2011.

CLASS Project Website



Coordinators Leading Advancement of Sessional Staff



The CLASS project website

<http://classleadership.com> was launched on May 5, 2010. This website will be used extensively to disseminate resources and deliverables that are produced throughout and post the implementation of this project.

This website has been established to:

- Communicate and promote details about the project activities including upcoming events and initiatives;
- Provide a means of disseminating the products and outcomes of the project including policy templates, guidelines and video triggers; and
- Enable the formation of a virtual Community of Practice to provide a means for mentoring and supporting facilitators from the cascade universities.

The CLASS Website includes:

- An overview and details about the CLASS project,
- Profiles of the project team and contact details of the project reference group,
- A comprehensive inventory of targeted resources for subject coordinators leading and managing sessional staff, and
- Details about major project initiatives and events

Resource Development

A key deliverable of the CLASS project will be the collation and development of resources that can be used by subject coordinators in their leadership and management of sessional teaching teams. An inventory of resources that are accessible from University websites is currently available from the CLASS website. Further, best practice exemplars for the sector will be collated and made available from the CLASS website.

A set of video triggers that centre around common dilemmas faced by coordinators in working with sessional staff and possible responses from a leadership perspective to these dilemmas are also currently being produced. These video triggers will be used in the Professional Development Workshops and will also be made available to the sector through the CLASS project website. The video triggers, which are being developed through the University of Wollongong and will be evaluated at the June 18 Pilot Professional Development Workshop.

The Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development

The CLASS project team will be collaborating throughout the duration of this project with The Council of Australian Directors of Academic Development (CADAD). This partnership has already been involved in the identification and compilation of existing resources (available from institutional websites) to support sessional staff and subject coordinators. The CLASS project team wish to thank CADAD for their ongoing contributions and support of the project. A summary of the collated list of resources that resulted from this initial collaborative activity is available as a downloadable file from the CLASS website *Resources* link (<http://classleadership.com/>)

Project Team Meetings and Reference Group Updates

There have been four project team meetings facilitated since the commencement of the CLASS Project. Each of these meetings has achieved a key outcome that has been integral in progressing the project.

The first project team meeting was held on November 9, 2009. This meeting established the strategic actions required for implementing the first two phases of the project.

The next two project team meetings held on February 24 and March 24 focused on production of the video triggers and the identification and

management of the actions related to this production

The fourth project team meeting held on April 29 focused on the finalisation of the project evaluation strategy.

There have also been two project reference group meetings held on February 24 and May 4. These meetings have provided the reference group with an update on the project activities and invited feedback from the reference group members on project progress and activities.

Project Team

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From Left to Right: Project Officer: Ms Dominique Parrish; Project Leader: Associate Professor Geraldine Lefoe (UOW); Project Team: Professor Yoni Ryan (ACU); Associate Professor Janne Malfroy (UWS); and Associate Professor Jo McKenzie (UTS);



External Project Evaluator: Dr Marina Harvey

Dr Marina Harvey led the 2006 ALTC Leadership and Assessment: Strengthening the Nexus project (LE612). The resulting Leaders in Effective Assessment Practice (LEAP) model combines the synergies of Distributed Leadership with Participatory Action Research (PAR) to achieve sustainable outcomes in enhancing assessment practice across an organisation. She is currently a team member of the Lessons Learnt project (LE9-1222) which is



investigating the synergies across distributed leadership projects. This project has a focus on supporting quality teaching through the development of sessional staff policy and support mechanisms and sharing of good learning and teaching practice.

To the evaluation of the CLASS project, Marina brings a strong background in PAR and action learning in supporting reflective practice and in developing leadership capacity within a distributed paradigm.

Project Reference Group

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