Leading Multi-Institution OLT Projects

ACDS T&L Conference
17 July 2015

Professor Les Dawes
Queensland University of Technology
Who is involved in StepUp?

Led by QUT in partnership with ACU, Griffith, JCU & UQ, and DETE with support provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning & Teaching.

Professor Les Dawes, QUT Faculty of Science & Engineering, is Project Leader.

30 academics from 5 Universities across Education and Science/Maths/Engineering Faculties

Centralised project staff 8 people

$3.2 Million and 3.5 years
Educational innovation today invites, even requires, levels of preparation, imagination, collaboration, and support that are not always a good fit (to say the least) with the inherited routines of academic life.

The Scholarship or Teaching and Learning Reconsidered: Institutional Integration and Impact. Pat Hutchings, Mary Taylor Huber and Anthony Ciccone, 2011
The innovator’s mindset: The belief that abilities, intelligence and talents are developed, leading to the creation of better ideas.

1. Empathetic
2. Problem Finders
3. Risk-Takers
4. Networked
5. Observant
6. Creators
7. Reflective
8. Resilient

Idea + Action = Fruition (with hard work)

bit.ly/8mindset
Original Model

Step Up! Program

Transformed mathematics and science teacher education in Queensland delivered by bringing stakeholders together in new ways to share the development and delivery of the Step Up! Program.

Working with precedents and examples we know work and which we can adapt to our context through phased activities.

To develop innovative courses and curriculum, transformative partnerships, renewed academic communities, and smart recruitment strategies in 4 steps.
**Project Plan**

**COLLECTIVE FRAMEWORKS DEVELOPED**
- Curriculum
- Recruitment
- Collaboration space

**PROOF OF CONCEPT**
- Test frameworks
  - Define *Step Up* model
  - Assess pilot concepts for model approaches

**ACTION LEARNING**
- Model evaluation/review
- Knowledge transfer
  - [Scalability : Transferability : Sustainability]

**TRANSFORMATIONAL NODES**
- connecting through experience
- the world is your classroom
- successful transitions

**LEARNING COMMUNITY**
- initiate
- experiment institutional level
- implement cross-institutional level
- expand
PoC Key Steps

Support teams to think big and develop proposals for prototype initiatives that test new approaches, establish evidence base and prepare for action research:
- Project leader direction and support
- Alignment with outcomes, objectives and shared frameworks

Support teams in taking proposal further and preparing them for open panel discussion:
- Feedback to teams - points of clarification; incorporation of broader outcomes; points for briefing to panel in next stage
- Critical friend feedback – process; assessment re evaluation/evidence

Establish shared understanding of project activity with open panel providing guidance from opinion leaders:
- Encourage, motivate teams to be clear & expansive in ideas & actions to deliver on grant’s intention
- Present useful reference points
- Discuss gaps and opportunities across project
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Lessons Learned and Challenges

It's important to Identify:
• change agents
• gatekeepers
• observers
Relies on goodwill of academics

Challenges
Ownership and buy in to project, foundation of collaboration & trust;
Not always easy to find out what's happening in the space and sharing isn't widespread.
Capture of related projects;
Map of stakeholders (who, why, what, when involvement is critical):
Engaging partners outside the project. Cascade partners

Ongoing true collaboration across science and education faculties

Aim to:

• Develop stronger and long lasting partnerships between schools and universities
• Leveraging of collaborative projects into ARC Linkage funding, foundation funding
• Innovations become business as usual in institutions
The Step Up project sees Qld universities working to address the national shortage of secondary science & maths teachers.

Focus on increasing quality and quantity of science/maths pre-service teachers and deliver;

• **New models and partnerships** for pre-service teachers to work with teachers, scientists and schools

• **New teacher education pathways**

• **Support and resources** for online professional networks, mentoring and peer-based learning

www.stepup.edu.au

*Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching*
Major outcomes:

- Increased secondary MSTEd students
- Collaborative course design and delivery
- A learning community of emerging MS teachers
- Strong maths/science knowledge and pedagogy amongst MSTEd students and graduates
- Partnerships for sustained outcomes