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Ward, Lisa J. and Laird, Ron

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Different Dialects – a World Conversation on Work Integrated Learning

Lisa Ward, University of Huddersfield
Ron Laird, University of Ulster

Opening Keynote
ASET Conference 8th September, 2009
Purpose

- Discuss what is happening in the world community
- Location of world events
- Key discussion topics
- How to get involved
WACE Events

- **Singapore** - June, 2007
- **Charleston** - November, 2007
- **Sydney** - October, 2008
- **Madrid** - December, 2008
- **Vancouver** - June, 2009
Key Topics

- Design of WIL
- Economic Climate
- Preparation for WIL
- Employability
- Technology
- Research
‘Qualifications have to be designed to incorporate periods of work that integrate with contact lecture room study’
Design of WIL – South Africa

- HEIs to ‘place students into WIL programs’
- WIL not funded
- Dilemma ??
Design of WIL - Turkey

- TOBB University of Economics and Technology, 2003
- Entrepreneurship and theory with practical experience
- Alternate academic and practical
- Co-operation protocols signed with 500 companies for over 1000 places
Design of WIL - Thailand

- National Education Act 1999 – universities provide students with experiential learning
- 16-weeks placement
- Problem-based or project-based learning in company
- Over 10,000 students involved per year from 60 universities
Design of WIL - Japan

- Creativity-based Intellectual Property Education Project
- IP Student Advisory Office on campus
- Challenge new businesses with new products
- Government support since 2006
Design of WIL - Japan

- ‘Career Gateway to Asia’
- Inward students orientation to Japan and industry
- 17 universities and 100 companies
Design of WIL - Finland

- ‘ProAcademy’ study programme – ‘doing a real business’
- Learn by doing on projects
- University-appointed Coach guides learning
Design of WIL - USA

- Drexel MSc in Higher Education
- Online simulation for in-work students
Economic Climate

- Global war on talent – Singapore 2007
- Australian – minerals boom October, 2008
- World in economic crisis – Vancouver, 2009
1. Over easy credit, role of US Federal Reserve
2. Overspending by everyone – government, industry, business, individuals
3. Regulatory Failure
4. Massive large scale fraud
Prep for WIL - Canada

- Simon Fraser University – prep for international co-op
- Departure, Culture, Managing Risk & Emergencies, Working Abroad, Returning Home
- Online with Facilitator
Prep for WIL - Canada

- University of Waterloo – engineering
- Professional Development courses
- Concurrent with placements
- 3 hours per week for 10 weeks each
- Online - 5000 students
Prep for WIL – Hong Kong

- Freshmen - ‘China Studies Course’
- 5 weeks in Shanghai or Beijing
- Cultural orientation in prep for WIL before graduation
Prep for WIL –
South Africa

- Durban University of Technology – ‘Each One Reach One’
- Pair an alumnus with current undergraduate
- Similar disciplines
Employment

- Growth in mentorship
- Generational Differences
- Major Australian Study ‘Maximising the Contribution of WIL to the Student Experience’

Joanne Tyler, Monash and Martin Smith, Wollongong
Collegiate Employment Research Institute (CERI), Michigan
Phil Gardner – Editor, Journal for Co-operative Education and Internships

- Young adults at work
- What do young adults want?
- Surfing for the right job

http://ceri.msu.edu
Technology - Canada

- Association for Co-op Education BC/Yukon
- Web site – employers promote co-op places to HEIs and programmes
- Co-op Student Housing Site – sub-let and seek accommodation
Technology - Canada

- University of Victoria, BC
- Weekly eNews Letters
- Mentor Programme – pair recent and new co-ops online
Technology - Canada

- Simon Fraser University
- Engage the ‘Millenials’
- Facebook, UTube, Twitter to engage and prompt
- Blogs to prompt reflection
Technology - Australia

- Flinders University – Clinical Communications Programme
- Multi-media nursing scenarios, online, interactive
- Students – English not first language
University of Huddersfield
Podcasts of students on their placement experience
Record personal & professional development
Technology - UK

- University of Ulster
- OPUS
Research

- Wider range of research – not just the basics
- Research methods: surveys, questionnaires, statistics.
- Evaluations, reflective practice.
International Research

- University of Waterloo (Canada), University West (Sweden), Gothenburg University (Sweden)
- Psychological Outcomes: self-concept, self-efficacy, hope, procrastination, study skills, tacit knowledge.
Personal Research

- Presenting internationally
- Submit for peer review
- Be a peer reviewer
Symposium

Developing an International Agenda for Co-op Research

18 world wide delegates

3 themes:

1. Building a theoretical framework
2. Addressing economic development
3. Addressing boundary spanning and governance
Summary

- Travel, learning, contacts
- Evaluate own practices
- Improvements & Innovation