

Managing Quality Teaching in Higher Education

What Works Conference

5-6 December 2011

CETYS University, Mexicali, Mexico

- Pedagogical innovations and effecting change in teaching and learning.
- Support for quality teaching and indicators of effective performance.
- Improving quality teaching with fewer resources and within a competitive setting.

This conference will provide a context in which to examine:

- Implementation strategies and practical approaches for institutions to promote quality teaching and pedagogical innovations;
- Institution-wide policies and practices that reinforce and foster student involvement in teaching, professional and program development, and technological and organisational change for creating conducive learning environments;
- Embedding improved and sustained quality teaching despite diminishing resources and an unpredictable future.

I. CONFERENCE CONTEXT AND FOCUS

Teaching quality throughout the world is influenced by contextual shifts within the higher-education environment. Current factors influencing the quality of teaching include: i) the internationalisation of higher education; ii) the increasingly broadening scope of education; iii) the rapid changes in technology, rendering programme content and pedagogies obsolete; iv) the demand for greater civic engagement of graduates and regional development of higher education; and v) the need to produce a skilled workforce to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The convergence of these factors have made the demands on higher education systems even greater and brought to the fore the importance of quality teaching in achieving expected student outcomes. As a proactive measure, many institutions have implemented specific teaching and learning strategies and have designed mechanisms and instruments to improve the quality of education. However, with diminishing resources and increasing competition, the challenges continue to seem unsurmountable.

Since 2007, the OECD's Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education and its project on Quality in Teaching has been exploring how institutions define and support the quality of faculty, pedagogy, learning environments, student support and other determinants

contributing to successful student achievement. This project will culminate in the 2011 “What Works” Conference, to be held in Mexicali, Mexico on 5-6 December 2011.

II. WHY ATTEND THE CONFERENCE?

This conference will bring together policy makers and practitioners who “manage education”. Targeted participants are provosts, vice-rectors of academic affairs, heads of teaching and learning improvement centres, department heads, members of internal and external quality assurance bodies, and researchers concerned with quality teaching and higher education.

The content of the conference will enable attendees to discuss the following questions:

How do institutions ensure that the education they offer meets the expectations of today’s students and the requirements of employers? How can institutions assess the impact of their initiatives and investments for the support of quality teaching? Can quality teaching be measured quantitatively and what indicators could be used for this purpose?

How can institutional leaders identify grassroot practices that are worthy of wider dissemination? How to move forward when there are tensions created between pockets of innovators and resisters within the same context? How to align an institution-wide vision with bottom-up practices? How can quality teaching become a consistent distinctive feature for the institution?

The conference will provide attendees with exposure to new approaches and practices. It will offer a unique opportunity for learning through international networking and sharing insights with institutional leaders involved in quality teaching.

The format of the conference will enable attendees to:

- Learn about cutting-edge international events;
- Engage in discussions on the challenges institutions face in promoting and implementing quality teaching policies and practices;
- Share and discuss local experiences and implications with colleagues from all over the world.

III. CORE TOPICS

- Indicators and measures of quality teaching
- Aligning the constituents of quality teaching within the institution
- Supporting, valuing and rewarding university teaching
- Engaging students as partners in the teaching process
- Professional development for faculty
- Program and curriculum development
- Organisational change
- Use of ICT for quality teaching