SEDA Autumn Conference 2023

Session title: Explore, Innovate and Enhance Student Employability and Well-being with Inspiration from a New-Model HEI

Session type: Workshop (60 mins)

Main presenter: Bertie Knight, New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering (NMITE)

Co-presenter: Professor Gary C Wood (NMITE)

Session summary:
Explore innovative programme design, delivery, and assessment methods for enhancing student employability and well-being. In this session, benefit from structured round-table activities with provocations from NMITE (New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering) a new HEI offering a unique challenge-led, industry-linked learning approach, to address skills gaps and develop work-ready graduates. Join us to benefit from sharing ideas with colleagues and leave with a new idea and an actionable takeaway for your own context.

Session outline:
The session will begin with an overview of NMITE (New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering), a new HEI, established to widen access to engineering education and address national skills gaps. NMITE's model uses block learning in a studio environment, without traditional exams, lectures, seminars or lab classes. Rather, students learn in a challenge-led, industry-linked environment that models the workplace, and are assessed through producing real-world outputs of the type demanded of professional engineers in practice.

After introducing NMITE, the workshop will provide a space for delegates to explore how aspects of NMITE's approach could have relevance and be adapted to their own contexts, using a structured framework to allow for full exploration of ideas and opportunities. Participants will join colleagues in small groups to explore a topic of their choice, with a range of possibilities, including:

- Empowering students to discover their agency and recognise their industrial relevance through bridging the gap between industry and education via direct industry involvement in programme design, delivery and assessment;

- Enhancing student and staff well-being through reconsidering traditional approaches and embracing innovative pedagogies, such as block learning and assessment for learning;

- Contextualising the development of transferable and professional skills within degree programmes to enhance student attendance and engagement in learning experiences designed to promote such skills; and

- Making assessment work harder as part of the learning experience that models workplace outputs rather than simply an end-point measure of learning gain.

In concluding the session, we will invite each group to share one key idea and action and encourage each delegate to establish their key takeaway and set themselves a next action to make it happen in their context.

References:

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Wood, G.C., Johnson, P. & Batchelder, C. (2022). Revaluing enterprise education in the 21st century: unifying learning and teaching, research and knowledge exchange to thrive and succeed in a changing world. In: Norton, S. & Penaluna, A. 3 Es for Wicked Problems: Employability, Enterprise, and Entrepreneurship: Solving Wicked Problems. York: Advance HE