



Developing a campus of the future which will reconnect the best of the old and the new

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This symposium will explore themes that are related to the *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology's* special edition on “Achieving lasting education in the new digital learning world”. The session will feature discussions between a range of online education experts on a range of big online education and broad education related questions. These questions will focus on how online education can be more than an education mode, and how it can strategically achieve real and lasting educational and community connection value. Possibilities for achieving this objective include fully connecting the campus of the future, whether online, physical or both, with the community of the future. The session will provide an opportunity for its attendants to contribute to the expert panellist led discussions and to provide valuable answers, as well as valuable questions.

Key terms: Online education, Strategic advances, Reconnection, Campus of the future

Area of Focus

The panel discussion will expand on key strategic education themes raised in the upcoming *Australasian Journal of Educational Technology's* special edition on “Achieving lasting education in the new digital learning world.” There are great challenges for achieving lasting and universal education via the use of rapidly changing educational practices and supporting technologies. These are challenges for higher education in general (for example Hersh & Merrow, 2015), as well as for its online modality (for example McKenzie et al., 2020). These great challenges include the need to develop new educational spaces and practices which genuinely bring people and places together, rather than place them in virtual isolation. The higher education campus of the future, whether online, physical, or both, can be educationally classical as well as modern. It can do this by recognising and adhering to universal educational principles, as well as by optimally utilising emerging education supporting technologies. In this panel session we will explore how this can be achieved as well as why it needs to be achieved.

Summary of Ideas to be Explored

The symposium will feature an interactive panel discussion between a wide range of online education experts, with a wide range of views and ideas on how to reconnect education with its educational and greater communities, including its learners and potential learners. The questions which will be discussed are:

1. What is the campus of the future and how can it best balance the optimal use of emerging educational practices and technologies with ongoing and universal educational principles?
2. Can online education be fully equivalent to face-to-face education? How?
3. How can we best balance playing to online education's potential strengths, including its ability to expand education access, scope, inclusivity and diversity, and its integrated use of a technology-enriched environment, with overcoming its potential weaknesses, including lack of student community and engagement?
4. How can optimal online education environments be developed which will best connect real space with virtual space, and therefore best connect community with the campuses that serve them?
5. How can the campus of the future be fully student centred, including by enabling whole student success including wellbeing, as well as academic success?
6. How can online education be optimally connected with broader systems including social and environmental systems?

Names of Proposed Panel Members and a Description of the Views they Represent

Professor Mathew E. Mundy, Executive Dean, Health and Education, Torrens University - *There is no longer a division between 'online' education and the more traditional 'in-person' - it is simply a continuum across which a student can complete their degree, as they choose. How universities facilitate this will decide the future order of student preferences.*

Associate Professor Femke Buisman-Pijlman, Academic Program Director (Health), Melbourne School of Professional and Continuing Education (MSPACE), University of Melbourne - *A key focus will need to be to improve connection with the university community online. People will visit campus less and great advantages can be gained from embracing the way they connect online around their interests.*

Dr Edwin Creely, School of Curriculum, Teaching and Inclusive Education, Faculty of Education, Monash University – *The campus of the future would be constructed around the notion of distributed learning: some on-campus, some in the cloud, some synchronous online, etc. It would respond to how students want to learn and can learn in the wake of the digitised world.*

Dr Meg Colasante, Learning Futures, Deakin University - *I have hope that the campus of the future will keep a critical pedagogy perspective on technology as one of many factors that can contribute towards an effective learning environment, and that teachers can critically review the roles that technology plays in their teaching practice.*

Dr Jennifer Chung, Learning Futures, Deakin University - *To be fully student centred we need do more than say we want to be student centred, and we need to truly value student input into the entirety of their university experience... there remains tension between university's stances on health and wellbeing and the expectations we place on students.*

Outline of the Symposium Format

The symposium discussion will be free and dynamic, and will include opportunities for audience as well as panellist participation. Each of the five symposium questions will be briefly responded to by one of the five panellists, and then the panel chair will invite brief responses (questions or answers) from other panellists, and from the audience.

Details of the Intended Audience, Expected Outcomes and Key Delegate Takeaways

The intended audience is educators who would like to develop a better understanding, and contribute to a better understanding, of a truly strategic and inclusive approach to developing a best possible campus of the future. It is envisaged that the symposium's audience and also its panellists will take away even more than they bring to the symposium - discoveries and rediscoveries that will help reconnect the educational old and the new - to reconnect educational place and people. It is envisaged that the panellist's and audience's session discoveries and rediscoveries will form the basis of a related publication, which will potentially follow-up the AJET's special edition on "Achieving lasting education in the new digital learning world."

References

- Hersh, H., Merrow, J. (Eds). (2015). *Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk*. St Martin's Press.
 McKenzie, S., Garivaldis, F., Dyer, K.R. (Eds). (2020). *Tertiary Online Teaching and Learning: TOTAL Perspectives and Resources for Digital Education*. Springer.

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