Gender Inclusivity of Engineering Students’ Experiences of Workplace Learning

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Impact

This is the first Australian project to investigate gender inclusivity of engineering students’ workplace experiences.

Students reported experiences consistent with gendered workplaces. Student workshops demonstrated how it is possible to help students to prepare for gendered workplaces. These reached over 100 students. With implementation by masterclass participants, hundreds of students will benefit in 2015.

The findings draw attention to the need for further research involving employers, students, and universities nation-wide.

Resources

• Final Report 2015
• Student Workshop Model available from the lead: slides, notes, and student handout
• Two papers (details on webpage below)

www.ecm.uwa.edu.au/staff/learning/research/gender-inclusivity

Method

Engineering students at the three partner universities participated in a survey (N = 160, 25% female) and interviews (N = 13, including four male students).

Student Workshops to Prepare for Workplace Interactions

Workshops were developed and tested at four universities. 110 students and six staff members attended.

“That is a great workshop. I wish I had attended it last year before my vacation job.” (Student)

Masterclass for Educators

A masterclass on holding the student workshops was held at the Australasian Association for Engineering Education 2014. Five participants indicated that they plan to use the workshop in their institutions.

“I am keen to implement this in a second-year group work unit as it is applicable to any gendered environment even when at uni.” (Senior lecturer)

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