

Prize For The Best Paper On An Authentic Learning Environment

Annual International HERDSA Conference 3 - 6 July 2005 hosted by the Institute for Teaching and Learning – the University of Sydney

“Higher Education in a Changing World”

Applications are invited for the *Edith Cowan University Authentic Learning Award* which will be presented at the 2005 HERDSA Conference. Applications close **30 April 2005**.

The purpose of the award is to promote the development of authentic learning environments in all facets of university teaching and learning, and to support the dissemination and publication of good practice associated with these environments. An authentic learning environment can be described as one where activities represent the types of complex tasks performed by professionals in the field, rather than decontextualised or contrived activities. Students have access to supporting resources and engage in collaboration, articulation and reflection as they produce outcomes typical of quality performance.

The award will comprise a certificate and prize of \$1000 and it will be awarded to the paper which in the opinion of a panel of judges makes a significant contribution to knowledge about authentic learning environments in higher education.

To be eligible for this award, the paper must:

- Describe and discuss the development, implementation and/or evaluation of an authentic learning environment in a higher education setting
- Be submitted for paper refereeing for the HERDSA 2005 Conference, and be accepted
- Be presented at the conference as a paper presentation.

Criteria:

The criteria for judging the award are:

1. The paper makes a significant contribution to knowledge about authentic learning environments in higher education.
2. The paper links the development of the authentic learning environment to previous theory and research, and provides appropriate references to the literature.
3. The authentic learning environment described is typically characterised by:

- i. Real-world relevance where learning is embedded in social practice
 - ii. Authentic tasks, with diversity of outcomes
 - iii. Opportunities for students to examine content and tasks from a variety of perspectives
 - iv. Opportunities for students to collaborate, articulate and reflect
 - v. Assessment is authentic and seamlessly integrated with tasks.
4. The implications of the development for other educators are clearly drawn.
5. The paper is well-written in an appropriate style, and in a clear and logical manner.
6. The paper conforms to the word length specified by the conference.

Judging panel

A panel of judges will be appointed by the HERDSA Executive from a list of key academics and researchers with experience of developing and evaluating authentic learning environments. The Executive reserves the right not to make the Award if there are no suitable papers.

Method of Application Applicants are required to send the following by **30 April 2005**.

- . The full paper to be presented (abstracts and proposals are not acceptable). The paper should conform to the guidelines for the presentation of HERDSA Conference papers.
- . Evidence that the paper has been accepted for presentation at the Year 2005 HERDSA Conference.
- . A covering note to indicate that the submission is for the *Edith Cowan University Authentic Learning Award*, and including a succinct statement indicating how your paper matches the criteria.

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