

# Prize for the Edith Cowan University Authentic Learning Award

## **HERDSA Conference, 6 – 9 July 2009 The Student Experience**

Applications are invited for the Edith Cowan University Award which will be presented at the 2009 HERDSA Conference. Applications close 20 February 2009.

The purpose of the award is to promote the development of an authentic learning environment. This 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 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 2009 Conference, and be accepted
- Be presented at the conference as a Research or Scholarly 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:
  - a. Real-world relevance where learning is embedded in social practice
  - b. Authentic tasks, with diversity of outcomes
  - c. Opportunities for students to examine content and tasks from a variety of perspectives
  - d. Opportunities for students to collaborate, articulate and reflect
  - e. 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 2009 Conference committee from a list of key academics and researchers with experience of developing and evaluating authentic learning environments. The committee reserves the right not to make the Award if there are no suitable papers.

## Method of Application

Applicants are required to submit the following, by 20 February 2009.

- The full paper to be presented (abstracts and proposals are not acceptable).  
The paper should conform to the guidelines for the presentation of HERDSA 2009 conference papers
- Indicating on the submission page for presentations that the paper is to be considered for the award.
- A succinct statement indicating how the paper matches the criteria.