

Innovative and multi-disciplinary teaching for prototype design

Keynote lecture

17:10 –17:50 on April 22nd 2015

Blair Stevenson, PhD

School of Media and Performing Arts

Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland

Keynote Description:

This keynote will be presented in two parts. The first part will describe a series of key innovative teaching methods and argue that many current practices which are considered innovative in fact draw upon a rich conceptual history of teaching development. Looking back provides keys to understanding which direction education and training will continue to evolve into the future, not only in health and social care education, but in post-secondary education in general. Approaches such as multi-professionalism, problem-based learning, visual methods and entrepreneurship education will be discussed in connection with other well-established processes in the health and social care field such as simulation, applied research and student practice. This discussion will further outline key factors that point to how teaching can support high levels of motivation and strong connections to working life.

The second part of the keynote will focus on summarizing the LAB model, as developed at the Oulu University of Applied Sciences in Finland, as an example of a recently established training program using innovative methods such as prototype development, concept design and business-university connections. Two of the key distinguishing features of this permanent post-secondary program, in contrast to other programs using similar approaches, are: 1. LAB studies bring together fully integrated multi-professional groups of students from diverse fields to work on prototype product design in a range of fields; and 2. LAB studies offer the opportunity for students to work on new product design that can lead directly to their ownership over the ideas and to the possible establishment of viable start-up businesses. Specific examples and outcomes from this program will be covered and applied to the health and social care context. Furthermore, the methods and approaches used in this program will be defined and connected to the conceptual discussion outlined in the first part of this keynote.