Habituating side-by-side journeys: Making students as partner “just the way we do things”

Jimi Bursaw, University of Queensland

As institutions seek ever-increasing “Students as ______” engagement, we are challenged to reconsider the way we operate on a daily basis. But what would holistic or even near-total integration look like? Is it possible? Where can we start?

We have opportunities in everything we do – from initiative creation through to evaluation and sunset, to allow students – those we serve, to become our educators and to permeate our work in ways that push us far beyond our own capacities (and sometimes comfort zones).

This workshop will draw on the presenter’s own partnership learning journeys from the US, Canada and Australia working with students to shape curriculum, policy, and co-curricular support programs and platforms. Specifically, stories of recent co-development work in student engagement and support at the Queensland University of Technology and by the University of Queensland’s Humanities faculty Student Futures Team will serve as more locally relevant examples.

In this workshop you will get a chance to:

- Hear stories from the field about teams and initiatives that have transitioned to comprehensive student co-development.
- Explore some of the practices used in those cases to change the way staff worked in order to make room for student co-authorship.
- Examine some of the pleasures and pitfalls of such comprehensive partnership.
- Map your own work and troubleshoot the more difficult places for partnership to exist.

Giving students influence helps shrink our institutions, builds identity, fosters employability, and perhaps most importantly builds community and support. Let’s explore what it takes to move this work from being a trend to being “just the way we do things”.

Learning outcomes

- Different approaches to working in partnership with students.
- Analysing our processes and finding opportunities for student influence.
- Troubleshooting barriers to initiative co-authorship with students.

Presenter

Jimi Bursaw, University of Queensland

Jimi loves helping students and staff discover new ways to bring their passions and talents together to make meaningful contributions to the world around them.

As a student affairs professional and sometimes academic, Jimi’s professional portfolio of work spans residential college management, student community and co-curricular program design, and institutional strategy leadership around campus culture & co-curricular graduate capacity building. Meanwhile, his academic and teaching work centres on alternative practices in education including experiential education, community-engaged learning, exceptionality and arts-based education. Jimi’s career has seen him in roles at institutions in Australia, Canada and the US.