Fostering Professional Identity

Presenters:

Dr Susan Blackley, School of Education
Dr Rachel Sheffield, School of Education
Dr Rekha Koul, Curtin Learning and Teaching
Associate Professor (and Curtin Academy Fellow) Nicoleta Maynard, Engineering Operations, Faculty of Science and Engineering
Dr Rebecca Walker, School of Education

This session will be presented as a Pecha Kucha, and will involve staff on a cross-faculty research team co-presenting with female undergraduate education and female engineering students.

Abstract:

The professional identity of these students is being nurtured by their involvement in the research project and is based upon a new model of reflective learning. The focal point for these vastly different student cohorts to work together is a STEM Makerspace that is situated in the Engineering Pavilion; and the collaborative project work is supported by a closed Facebook site. The students work together in the Makerspace to make a STEM product: the engineering students assist with the science and engineering concepts and the education students consider the pedagogy and strategies to take the project to a primary school. The tertiary students, accompanied by members of the research team, mentor primary school girls to complete the make the same product, and collect data from the school girls’ experience. The project will run three times during the year, based on three different STEM products – each of a different type and STEM focus.

The impact to-date has been extremely positive from the point-of-view of the students and the school girls. The education students are delighted to have additional teaching experience, and the engineering students have realised the scope of their influence in the field of STEM education.