

## Learning development through research and inquiry: Engaging undergraduates from first to final year

Presentation by Professor Mick Healey  
Higher Education Consultant and Researcher  
[mhealey@glos.ac.uk](mailto:mhealey@glos.ac.uk); [www.mickhealey.co.uk](http://www.mickhealey.co.uk)

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*“For the students who are the professionals of the future, developing the ability to investigate problems, make judgments on the basis of sound evidence, take decisions on a rational basis, and understand what they are doing and why is vital. Research and inquiry is not just for those who choose to pursue an academic career. It is central to professional life in the twenty-first century.”*  
Brew (2007, 7)

The argument of this session is two-fold. Firstly, *all* undergraduate students in *all* higher education institutions should experience learning through and about research; and secondly, this is an effective way for students to develop the learning skills they need to succeed in their courses and their future careers. Engaging our students in research and inquiry is one of the best ways to link teaching and research; in other words, to see them as producers, not just consumers of knowledge. Many undergraduate research programmes are for selected students and may well be outside the formal curriculum, e.g. in summer enrichment programmes. However, here it is suggested that the key to mainstreaming undergraduate research and inquiry is to integrate it into the curriculum. The session will explore the variety of ways in which undergraduate research and inquiry based learning can stimulate learning development from first to final year using numerous mini-case studies from different disciplines, departments and institutions in Australasia, Europe and North America. It is part of a wider debate of engaging students as partners in higher education.

### Biography

**Mick Healey** is an HE Consultant and Researcher and Emeritus Professor at the University of Gloucestershire, UK. Until 2010 he was Director of the Centre for Active Learning, a nationally funded Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He is currently a Visiting Professor at University College London and holds an adjunct Professorship at Macquarie University. He was one of the first people in the UK to be awarded a National Teaching Fellowship and to be made a Principal Fellow of the HE Academy. He received a SEDA@20 Legacy Award for Disciplinary Development in 2013. Mick is an experienced presenter. Since 1995 he has given over 500 educational presentations in 18 different countries. He has written and edited more than 150 papers, chapters, books and guides on various aspects of teaching and learning in HE. He was co-editor of the *International Journal for Academic Development* (2010-13) and currently is co-editor to the International section of the US based *Council on Undergraduate Research Quarterly*. He is often asked to act as an advisor to projects, universities and governments on aspects of learning and teaching.

### Some recent references on the topic of the presentation

A full list of references may be found at [www.mickhealey.co.uk](http://www.mickhealey.co.uk)

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