

## Establishing and Sustaining Communities of Practice – A Celebrating Teaching Seminar

This workshop is designed for both academic and professional staff interested in establishing and sustaining Communities of Practice to facilitate professional discussions and knowledge building around learning and teaching-related issues.

Jacque McDonald will draw on her experience of initiating; facilitating and sustaining the successful Community of Practice (CoP) initiative at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ). She will outline the adaptation of CoP theory to the USQ Higher Education context and present a robust organising framework to address the essential elements of Communities of Practice. Sandy Sharman will outline the CoP Project Officer role, including facilitator and member requirements, issues and concerns, and business processes for CoP operations.

Within the two hour workshop participants will explore the challenges of starting and sustaining Communities of Practice, including effective start-up processes, administrative support and a robust organising framework adapted from CoP theory for Higher Education application. Participants will share their practice and build knowledge around the CoP facilitator role and investigate practical strategies for current and potential facilitators to create an institutional context supportive of their CoPs.

The presenters will draw upon their four years experience of initiating, building, facilitating and sustaining the successful Community of Practice initiative at the University of Southern Queensland, which was recognised by a 2009 Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) commendation.

**Date:** Friday, 4 November 2011  
**Time:** 10.00am – 12.00pm (*Keynote*)  
12.00pm – 12.30pm (*Griffith Grants Showcase*)  
**Venue:** Ship Inn Function Room  
**Campus:** South Bank

## Keynote Address

### Establishing and Sustaining Communities of Practice

**Associate Professor Jacquie McDonald**

ALTC Teaching Fellow, and Learning & Teaching Designer;  
Learning and Teaching Support, University of Southern  
Queensland



Jacquie leads the successful implementation of Communities of Practice at the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), which was recognised by a 2009 Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) commendation. Jacquie is project leader for a number of learning and teaching grants and is USQ's Communities of Practice (CoP) program leader, with twenty plus CoPs established since 2006. Jacquie is a USQ Senior Learning and Teaching Fellow, a 2009 Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) Citation winner, a 2010 ALTC Teaching Fellow with a fellowship titled '*Community, domain, practice: facilitator's catch-cry for revitalising learning and teaching through communities of practice.*' She is also co-project leader for a 2010-12 ALTC Leadership project LE10-1734 - *Identifying, building and sustaining leadership capacity for communities of practice in higher education* <http://www.cops.org.au/>.

She is a member of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA), Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) and CP2, an international community of practice about communities of practice. She has over 30 years experience in education, including 20 years of learning and teaching design in tertiary and training environments and has co-authored book chapters, a number of journal articles and refereed international and national conference papers.

**Ms Sandy Sharman**

Community of Practice Project Officer,  
University of Southern Queensland



Ms Sandy Sharman is the Community of Practice (CoP) project officer USQ, and has worked with Jacquie implementing USQ CoPs since the start-up of the pilot CoP in 2006 for Faculty of Business first year core course leaders. Sandy has an excellent understanding of CoP operational requirements, facilitator and member requirements, issues and concerns. She has developed business processes for CoP operations and plays an essential role in implementing USQ CoP activities, and facilitating outcomes in terms of grants and research. Sandy is particularly keen to build on existing relationships with staff at other universities to mentor and promote the CoP project officer role and its place in parallel leadership of communities of practice.

**Please register at: [gihe-register@griffith.edu.au](mailto:gihe-register@griffith.edu.au)**

***Registration is essential!***