Excellence in Professional Practice Conference 2016

Collaboration for school improvement

Submission Guidelines

Thursday 19 May – Friday 20 May
Bayview Eden, Queens Road, Melbourne, VIC Australia

Australian Council for Educational Research
About the Conference

The Excellence in Professional Practice Conference (EPPC) is a conference presented by practitioners, for practitioners. EPPC is for teachers, school leaders and researchers, teams collaborating for improvement in year levels, across a whole school, in clusters of schools or partnering with external organisations.

Theme

The theme for this year’s Excellence in Professional Practice Conference is Collaboration:

- between students;
- between teachers;
- between schools, local and overseas;
- with other education providers and agencies;
- with business and community.

ACER is calling on all educators interested in sharing their practices with the broader educational community to submit abstracts for posters, presentations or workshops that exemplify a collaborative approach to improving learning.
Why should I present?

Presenting at EPPC is a fantastic way to share experiences, gain visibility, build your network and be a part of a growing and strong professional community.

Here are some great reasons to consider a submission for EPPC 2016:

- Presenting at EPPC is an outstanding professional development activity. By presenting at the conference, you not only meet others who share in your professional passions, but also establish your own professional credibility and leadership.

- EPPC provides an opportunity to report on and celebrate the improvements you have achieved whilst collaborating with colleagues within your classes, across the whole school, within networks of schools or with external agencies.

- EPPC provides you with the opportunity to meet like-minded educators and build your own professional network.

- Sessions are presented by classroom practitioners to classroom practitioners.

- EPPC delegates come from diverse school and system backgrounds thus providing presenters who are aspirant leaders the opportunity to become better known in the national and international field of education.

- Connect with educators from across the country and around the world to discuss current and international issues, sharing concerns, experiences and useful strategies.

- Attending or presenting at EPPC provides you with standards-referenced professional development hours.

- Showcase your school’s best practice around collaboration for school improvement.

- Build your knowledge base.

- Learn from practitioners.
**Types of presentation**

Submissions for this year’s conference can be in one of three formats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Poster</strong></th>
<th><strong>Presentation</strong> (30 Minutes)</th>
<th><strong>Workshop</strong> (60 Minutes)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accepted poster submissions will be displayed in the public area of the conference venue where presenters can discuss their collaboration with interested delegates.</td>
<td>Concise and engaging presentations by some or all of the parties involved in the collaboration (potentially including students) should highlight the reasons for working together, the challenges, the successes in terms of student outcomes, academic or wellbeing, and where to from here. A 30 minute presentation might comprise a 20-minute outline of the collaboration, followed by a 10-minute Q&amp;A session with delegates.</td>
<td>Interactive workshop sessions by some or all of the parties involved in the collaboration (potentially including students) allow for activities and hands-on demonstrations to engage delegates and help illustrate or model your practices. Workshop submissions should detail the activities to be used in the interactive session, including the sequence of activities and estimated time for each specific activity.</td>
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Potential presenters for posters, presentations or workshops are required to submit an abstract.

Your abstract should address the four parts below. The total of the four parts of the abstract must not exceed 300 words. The fifth part is only for workshops and is not subject to the 300 word limit.

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**Title**

Choose your title carefully, to ensure it is engaging and accurate so that delegates can make an informed choice to attend.

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**Part I:**

How did you identify a problem of practice (using data) and the need for a collaborative relationship?

**Part II:**

What action/project did you undertake?

Briefly detail the expectations from your school, other agency or partnership and what exactly the collaboration made possible.

**Part III:**

What data do you have to show how the collaboration is making a difference?

**Part IV:**

Reflect on what you have achieved and the implications for others.

**Part V:**

(Additionally, for workshops only)

Please indicate the activities you will use in this 60-minute presentation, allowing time for conversations and questions.

This additional part of your submission for workshops only will not be subject to the 300 word count and will not be published on the website.
Tips for a successful submission

Consider the following four key pieces of advice to help you get started on the submission process for your EPPC presentation.

1. **Appoint a ‘Lead Presenter’**
   This is the contact person for initial communication and is ideally a school practitioner.

2. **Draft first**
   The online submission process will not enable you to save your work as you go.

   We suggest you write your submission in a word processing program first, and then cut and paste into the online submission form.

3. **Think of your audience**
   Choose words and data that intrigue your target audience who are teachers and school leaders, researchers, consultants and representatives from external organisations. They are eager to hear your story and perhaps even apply it to their context.

   Don’t be afraid to discuss the challenges and obstacles you faced, but most importantly use examples to highlight the purpose of the collaboration and the outcomes to all parties involved.

4. **References**
   References are not necessary in the submission, but should be provided when you present at the conference.

   If successful, the abstract will be published in the program and on the website, so please take care with grammar and tone.
Ready to submit your presentation?

You will need to submit your abstract for review using our online form before Friday 4 December 2015.

https://www.acer.edu.au/eppc/submission-form

Acceptance

Three reviewers will read your abstract, suggesting amendments where necessary. They may suggest that you present in a category other than the one you have applied for. For example a 60-minute workshop proposal may be deemed more suited to a 30-minute presentation. The reviewers’ recommendations are sent to the program committee and the decision of the program committee is final.

If your submission is accepted you will need to register and pay for the conference at our special presenter rate, and prepare your poster, presentation or workshop. You must hold copyright for text and images or seek permissions from copyright holders where necessary since ACER will include your presentation on the EPPC website. Participants appreciate handouts or pamphlets when they attend your presentation.

Awards

Awards will be offered for outstanding presentations. The program committee will select award winners based on the relevance to the conference theme, the quality of the abstract and the quality of the poster, presentation or workshop on the day.