Evidence Based Engineering Education: Research and Practice

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- Research area
- Goals and systematic investigation
- Examples of my contributions.







Context of Evidence Based Education







Cognitive Shift

Introspection

Scholarly discourse

Teaching Practice in Computing and Engineering

Intuition

Evidence







Research Goals

Improve practice

Understand learning

Contribute insight





Managing Systematic Change





Group Discussion - systematic innovation

Aspect of System to be Changed

Structures

and

Environments

Individuals

I. Disseminating: CURRICULUM & PEDAGOGY	II. Developing: REFLECTIVE TEACHERS
Change Agent Role: Tell/Teach individuals about new teaching conceptions and/or practices and encourage their use.	Change Agent Role: Encourage/Support individuals to develop new teaching conceptions and/or practices.
Diffusion	
Implementation	Scholarly Teaching Faculty Learning Communities
III. Enacting: POLICY	IV. Developing: SHARED VISION
Change Agent Role: Enact new environmental features that Require/Encourage new teaching conceptions and/or practices.	Change Agent Role: Empower/Support stakeholders to collectively develop new environmental features that encourage new teaching
Quality Assurance	conceptions and/or practices.
Organizational Development	
	Learning Organizations
-	Complexity Leadership
Prescribed	Emergent

Intended Outcome





Case Study 1

Designing high quality research







How?











Case Study 2

Improving student learning of programming



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- Re-structuring programming instruction
- Focus on the role of experience, and practice in the development of professional competence.
- Utilise current research in the domain, and observations from professional practice.



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• Key results from learning and teaching research

research on motivation and activated learners {e.g. Dweck:1999}
deep vs surface learning {Trigwell 1999,Biggs1987}
threshold concepts {Meyer 2005} and conceptual change {Entwistle 2007}





Relevant CE and EE research

- Importance of helping students to appreciate tacit aspects of expert knowledge and behaviour. {Mancy: 2006}
- Self efficacy, creativity, and motivation {Williams: 2001,McDowell03,Jacobson:2008}
- Research on the learning of programming, {Soloway 1986, Palumbo 1990, Pattis 1993, Robins et. al. 2003, Howe 2004, Eckerdal 2005, Lister 2006, Pears 2007}





Enhancing learning

Revealing tacit knowledge Interactive code development in lecture environment

Leveraging research on self efficacy and self theories Resulting in a peer interaction approach to practical work

Motivation and engagement

Enhance opportunities for self determination and creativity.

Allow student groups to define significant aspects of their own assignments.





Assessing for learning

Final grade: Fail, Pass, Pass with credit, Pass with distinction

Grade based on:

- Pass in 10 of 13 supervised programming sessions,
- Final grade determined by a project assessment,
 - 30 minute group oral exam
 - 15 minute individual oral exam
 - Qualitative criteria used to determine, final grade.





Questions?