

Degrees At Work: Mapping a Pathway from School, to University and Professional Careers

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Biography:

Jane has 13 years of experience in the education and non-for-profit sectors, and holds a Bachelor of Business Management (Human Resources/Industrial Relations) and a Masters in Teaching (Secondary Education). Jane is at her best when working within a collaborative environment to achieve stronger educational outcomes for young people, she believes in a community approach to education which can bring further purpose and meaning to educational experiences for students. She also has 5 years of experience in coaching and facilitating business people and educators to work more efficiently together and one of her main passions is seeing this achieved.

Samantha is a Senior Project Officer in the ASPIRE Widening Participation Program at UNSW Sydney and was formerly a Career Development Practitioner in the NSW education system. Her career in education and the not-for-profit sector has been focussed upon building pathways through education to employment and developing academic self-efficacy for students from disadvantaged schools and communities in regional and metropolitan areas. Sam believes firmly in the power of the network, and the importance of relevant social capital in enabling students to successfully navigate a meaningful career development journey.

Abstract:

This presentation describes an example of integrated University widening participation and career development practice, built upon a solid evidence base. The presentation outlines our process of co-designing practical sessions featuring Industry, Schools and Universities and the impact of these sessions on a senior secondary student clientele. In 2018, The UNSW ASPIRE Outreach program, in conjunction with school and industry partners, has created and successfully implemented two programs; 'Degrees at Work' and 'Subject Matters'. Both are Industry and University led, have strong links to school curriculum, building social capital, academic self-efficacy and career awareness for students from educationally disadvantaged schools and communities.

The programs are supported by evidence from

- Bradley et. al Review of Australian Higher Education (2008)
- Mitchell Institute report 'Connecting the worlds of learning and work' July 2018
- Anthony Mann's paper 'It's Who You Meet' 2015
- Gonski Review and Gonski 2.0

The presentation will outline the collaborative process required to co-design these workshops, detailing how this is initiated and managed across all stakeholders. It will detail the session outline of both programs and our key findings. We will also unpack some of the stakeholder feedback from the programs, including some of the unintended outcomes. The presentation concludes by outlining future opportunities within the space of multidisciplinary collaborations and the potential impact on career development and widening participation outcomes across Australia.