



News from the NAEEA

Edition 3, 2016

NAEEA Chairperson's Message

Colleagues,
The academic year is well underway and we trust you are finding your endeavours as enabling educators rewarding.

In this issue of the newsletter, if you haven't done so already, we'll be encouraging you to renew your membership for 2016; inviting you to participate in one of the special interest groups; alerting you to a planned Southern Symposium in September; revisiting the 2015 conference hosted by Western Sydney University; and reminding you of forthcoming enabling education conferences in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, including an early announcement of the 2017 NAEEA conference.

The NAEEA Executive Committee welcomes Dr Joanne Lisciandro to its membership. Joanne, based at the Access Programs Centre at Murdoch University, is our first Western Australian elected representative on the Committee.

Please consider participating in one or more of the special interest groups of the Association. We are hopeful that these groups will gain momentum as the year progresses. Of particular note is the establishment of a new SIG on Enabling Curriculum. We anticipate widespread interest in the activities of this group.

A further new development is the hosting of a Southern Symposium. This follows on from 5 annual successive and very successful Queensland based symposiums. Read on below for more details of this forthcoming event.

On the basis of a discussion paper generated by NAEEA Executive members, Associate Professor Seamus Fagan and Professor Janet Taylor, *Quality Enhancement of Enabling Programs in Australia*, the Association is now planning to commission three research papers around specific and related topics to further this debate. We are also eagerly awaiting the outcomes of the NCSEHE commissioned study, *Pathways to higher education: The efficacy of enabling and sub-bachelor pathways for disadvantaged students*.

We'd appreciate your feedback, comments and suggestions and also any items of interest which might form part of future editions of this newsletter.

All the best with your enabling endeavours,
David Bull, 2016 NAEEA Chairperson.
www.enablingeducators.org

Special Interest Groups

For further details regarding any of the SIGs please visit the Association website at

<http://enablingeducators.org/special.html>

To participate in any of the SIGs please contact the facilitators mentioned below.

New Special Interest Group

Enabling Curriculum

The aim of this SIG is to initiate a discussion at a national level between enabling educators in Australia about the characteristics of the curricula of enabling programs. Through these discussions, it is hoped that curriculum principles of enabling programs will be articulated as a unified voice.

The SIG will seek to share information about curriculum design approaches, informing and promoting best practice within enabling education in Australia. Please contact Bronwyn.Relf@newcastle.edu.au if you are interested in participating in this discussion.

Mental Health

This SIG meets every two months (via skype) to share our experiences in our different enabling programs, and ideas from the literature. Please contact Nicole.Crawford@utas.edu.au to be involved.

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM)

If you have thoughts and ideas in the sphere of STEM education – please drop us a line at

Deb.Turley@unisa.edu.au or Jane.Stratton@utas.edu.au

Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Please contact Geoffrey.Parkes2@usq.edu.au with your details so we can form a community of practitioners who work together to improve the outcomes for CALD students.

Online Learning

Please get in touch with either

Evonne.Irwin@newcastle.edu.au or

Elizabeth.Goode@newcastle.edu.au if you're interested in joining. If you're a Twitter user, please follow

@OEnablingEd. We also have the weekly auto-curated online newspaper: OnlineEnablingEd And of course, don't forget the website: <http://onlineenabling.com/>



2016 Membership now due!

Individual and Institutional Membership is \$80 per person and provides members access to a nationwide community of practice which is focused on the continued development of enabling education. NAEEA members are entitled to a discount of \$80 when registering early for NAEEA Conferences.

Individual Membership rate: \$80. Payment may be made by cheque, direct debit, or through PayPal.

- **Cheques** are payable to NAEEA and forwarded to the NAEEA Treasurer (Charmaine Davis), Open Access College, University of Southern Queensland, West Street, Toowoomba, 4350.
- **Direct debit** payments are made to Heritage Bank, BSB 638-070, Account No. 13046179, using your name as reference. After the transaction, email secretary@enablingeducators.org to advise you have paid this way.
- **Credit card** payments can be made via PayPal. Please email the [secretary](mailto:secretary@enablingeducators.org) who will create a PayPal invoice. The invoice will provide directions on how to make the payment.

2015 NAEEA Annual Conference

The National Association of Enabling Educators of Australia (NAEEA) 2015 Annual Conference was hosted by Western Sydney University, The College on 25 -26 November at the Parramatta Campus. The campus by the Parramatta River provided a beautiful backdrop. The College professional staff that supported the Conference did an amazing job. The feedback from all participants was outstanding in terms of the high level of detail and support provided to all participants.

The theme for the 2015 Conference was, '**Success and Opportunities in Challenging Times**'. Key international speakers at the 2015 Conference include Professor John Storan, Director, Continuum, Centre for Widening Participation Policy Studies, University of East London and Ms. Sharon Thomas-Parrott, Senior Vice President of External Relations at DeVry Education Group Inc. Chicago.

The conference had 130 participants from 27 institutions across Australia and New Zealand. In addition to Keynote speakers there were 54 presentations and workshops by participants, all of which focused on the key themes of the conference. A Conference Dinner at the beautiful Oatlands House was held on the evening of Wednesday 25 November.

The opportunity to catch up with Colleagues and friends from all over Australia and to take a few days to immerse ourselves in the issues Enabling Educators face on a day to day basis was much appreciated.

Alan Moran
Conference Convenor.

2016 Conferences

FABENZ

Foundation and Bridging Educators New Zealand

An invitation to all those involved in delivering foundation/bridging/enabling programmes

Foundation and Bridging Educators New Zealand
3rd Biennial Conference
Unitec Institute of Technology, Mt Albert, Auckland
December 1 & 2, 2016

PENCIL IN THE DATE

From March 15 2016, more information will be available on our website, fabenz.org.nz



FACE Annual Conference
Queen's University Belfast, 29 June - 1 July 2016



Widening participation within the context of economic and social change:
engaging applicants and empowering students to create successful graduates

Conference themes:

- *Partnerships* - Engaging communities and embracing the private sector
- *Lifelong Learning* - Creating realistic and inspiring opportunities within the workforce
- *Internationalisation* - Working together to create opportunities for all
- *Student experience* - Quality, equity and consistency

2017 NAEEA Biennial Conference

Significant Date Claimer

- Venue: **Southern Cross University, Gold Coast Campus at Coolangatta**
- Dates: **29 November – 1 December 2017**
- Theme: **Enabling learning, Enabling teaching**

The conference will be held in their new building (pictured below) to be opened in Semester 1, 2017. The campus is within walking distance of the Gold Coast Airport and in close proximity to beachside accommodation.



Southern Symposium 22-23 Sept 2016

Title

Open Access- Balancing equity, excellence and ethical practice in enabling programs

Venue Details

The Southern Symposium will be hosted by UniSA College and will take place at the University of South Australia, City West campus in the heart of the vibrant city of Adelaide. This is an opportunity for enabling educators to network with colleagues from Australia and New Zealand.

Times

12 noon Thursday 22nd September through to 4pm Friday 23rd September.

Enabling education encourages universities to play a broader social inclusion function by supporting access, engagement and success for all students regardless of prior educational attainment or socio-economic background. Yet, providing open access to higher education presents challenges in balancing the agendas of equity and excellence. These challenges raise questions such as; *'How do we define open access?', 'What ethical issues are raised through different modes of access?', 'Should diagnostic testing be implemented?', 'What is considered 'best practice' in enabling education, particularly in relation to assessment benchmarking, teaching standards, length of program and maintaining consistency with TEQSA regulations?'*.

Join the conversation as we discuss enabling programs and open access to higher education at the Southern Symposium.

Symposium Sub-Themes

The symposium sub-themes for 2016 are:

- Defining open access
- Ethical implications regarding setting entry requirements for enabling programs
- Implementing diagnostic testing
- The challenges of preparing CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) students for university
- Assessment criteria and benchmarking
- Establishing models of best practice in enabling programs

