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Editorial

Introduction to Special theme of First Year Experience at University

This special edition of the e-Journal of Business Education & Scholarship of Teaching is concerned with examining the First Year Experience at University. The first year experience is arguably an important period for university students and research has shown that a positive experience is strongly correlated to student retention. The changing student demographics as foreshadowed in the Bradley Review (2008) are placing greater demands on universities across Australia to redress attrition and improve retention of students.

This requires a fundamental change in the approaches to teaching and learning employed in the university sector. There is a need to reflect on traditional approaches and to consider alternative models that will provide a positive first year experience. Arguably the enhancement of the first year curriculum can improve student engagement in order to facilitate the transition, accommodate integration improve student performance and ultimately retention (Kift, 2008).

The papers in this edition are intended to provoke thought and evoke action on how best to meet the challenges of improving the first year experience.

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Bradley, D., Noonan, P., Nugent, H. & Scales, B. 2008, *Review of Australian Higher Education, Final Report, 2008*, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra.

Kift, S 2008, 'The next, great first year challenge: Sustaining, coordinating and embedding coherent institution-wide approaches to enact the FYE as "everybody's business"', *Proceedings of the 11th Pacific Rim First Year in Higher Education Conference*, Hobart, Tasmania, 30 June - 2 July 2008.