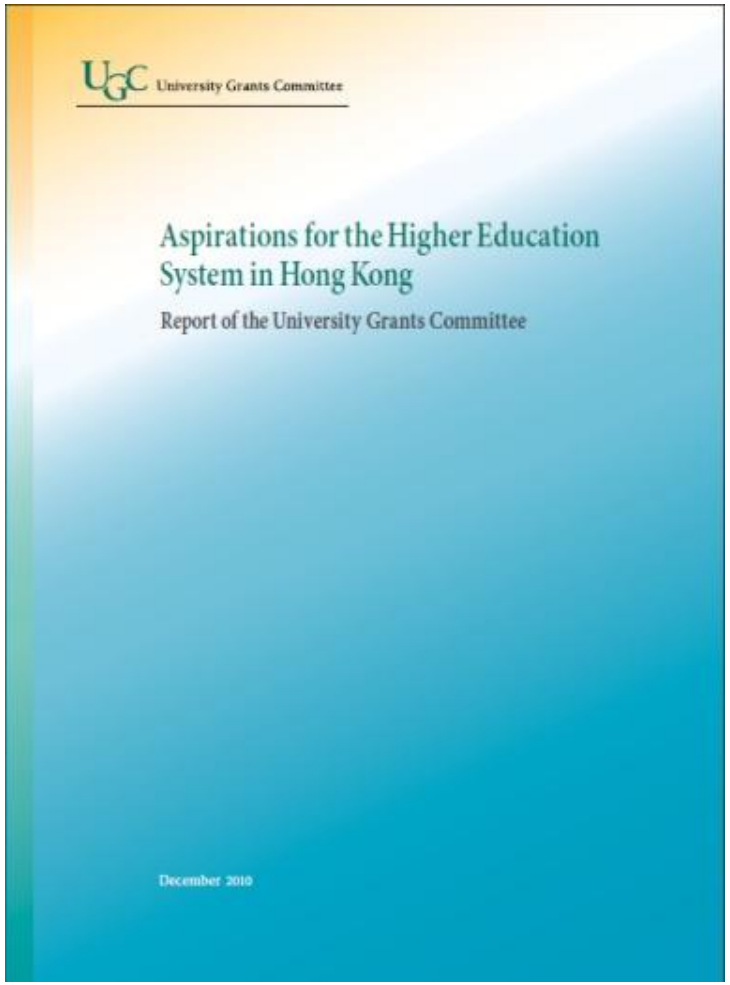
Communities of Practice

Background of the CoPs at PolyU

In December 2010, UGC considered it an urgent matter to revitalise teaching and learning at both the system and institutional level.

To fulfil this educational goal, UGC has decided to provide seed funding to bring together a network of outstanding educators in higher education in Hong Kong who can lead communities of practice both within and across institutions.



CoPs at PolyU

- **A**cademic Advising
- **D**eveloping, Recognising & Rewarding Excellent Teaching
- **E**nhancing Students' English Abilities
- **S**ervice Learning
- **U**sing Blackboard LMS to Enhance Learning & Teaching

Objectives

- To identify and collect the freshmen's preference, needs, and expectation about academic advising through a series of activities;
- To share good practices with Academic Advisors in Departments/Schools on their way of engaging students and how to advise students;
- To organise seminar(s)/talk(s)/workshop(s)/conference to promote favourable environment for the building of person-person AA community;
- To develop E-learning packages of training sessions on Blackboard for academic advisors (especially new academic advisors) to learn and share experience;
- To disseminate major findings across the university and across other institutions in Hong Kong.

CoP Facilitator & Co-facilitator Contact:

Dr. Andrew Siu
a.siu@polyu.edu.hk

Miss Katherine Shum
katherine.shum@polyu.edu.hk

CoP on Academic Advising

Developing, Recognising & Rewarding Excellent Teaching

Community of Practice

Objectives

- To build up a community of PolyU staff who will together to promote and develop excellent teaching;
- To develop a culture of sharing and continuous improvement in teaching and learning across PolyU;
- To devise and see implemented a range of policies, practices and processes for better recognition and reward of excellent teaching at PolyU.

CoP Facilitator Contact

Professor Iris Benzie iris.benzie@polyu.edu.hk

Click here for more information:

http://www.polyu.edu.hk/CoP/excellent_teaching/

Roundtable Teaching and Learning

Books that Inspired my Thinking

Reading widely is one of the hallmarks of a great mind! Great educators often have a passion for reading. This Roundtable Teaching & Learning session brings together three top educators to share their favourite books and how these books impacted their hearts and minds, allowing them to become better educators. Please join us to hear what inspires them through their love of reading books. Come and share a book you have read that changed your life and your own outlook on how your chosen book helped you become a better scholar.

Dr. Julia Chen (ELC)
Associate Director

Dr. Li Dechao (CBS)
Associate Professor

Mr. Steve Frankland (ISE)
Senior Teaching Fellow

Date: 28 Oct 2014 (Tue)

Time: 12:45 – 2:00pm
(Please arrive early as the session start at 12:45pm sharp)

Venue: Research Lounge, 5/F, Pao Yue-kong Library

These monthly roundtable discussions aim to create more of a COMMUNITY of like-minded colleagues from our entire university to come together on a regular basis and discuss important themes that have the power to stimulate new ways of thinking and new ways of doing our practice of educating life-long learners.

We welcome researchers, teachers and adminstrators to join us.

We are afraid that no food will be provided but plenty of food for thought.

Registration
Contact Tirzah Wu (2766 4237) or register online at
http://edc.polyu.edu.hk/regform

Organised by Community of Practice (CoP) on Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching
In cooperation with:

Lib.polyu.edu.hk The University Learning Hub

Educational Development Centre

SAO Student Affairs Office

Developing, Recognising & Rewarding Excellent Teaching
Community of Practice

Home | About Us | Work Plan | Events | Showcase | Resources | How to Join | Members Only

One-minute Video Project

As part of the *Community of Practice* on Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching, our team has solicited views, opinions, advice and inspiring stories from key stakeholders of PolyU (teachers, researchers, administrators, employers, etc) on a core theme of "***What will it take to educate the next generation of thought-leaders for a complicated world?***" Please click the thumbnails and see the responses from the interviewees:

PolyU stakeholders (teachers, researchers, administrators)

Prof. Roger Ball
Professor, School of Design, PolyU

Prof. Iris Benzie
Chair Professor of Biomedical Science, Department of Health Technology and Informatics, PolyU

Dr. Chan Hin Wang, Kevin
Research Assistant Professor
Department of Applied Social Sciences, PolyU

Prof. Winnie Cheng
Professor, Department of English, PolyU

Prof. Kaye Chon
Dean of School and Chair Professor, School of

Dr. Doris Chong
Clinical Associate, Department of Rehabilitation

Objectives

The overall objective of the CoP is to continually enhance the design, delivery, assessment and evaluation of service learning at PolyU. The specific objectives are:

- To establish a network of PolyU staff with a common interest in the theory and practice of service-learning pedagogy;
- To provide a forum for sharing of experience and expertise in designing, delivering, assessing and evaluating service learning subjects and projects;
- To encourage and support members to further develop their understanding of and competence in service-learning pedagogy;
- To promote a scholarly approach to, and a culture of critical inquiry and reflective practice in, service learning .

CoP Facilitator Contact

Dr. Stephen Chan stephen.c.chan@polyu.edu.hk

Click here for more information:

http://www.polyu.edu.hk/CoP/service_learning/

Experience Service-Learning This Summer in Cambodia

A Unique Summer Course

Spend an intensive and deeply rewarding 11 days with educators immersed in creating curriculum and projects focused on service-learning. Learn while involved in projects being carried out by University students under the supervision of teachers experienced in service-learning.

Duration

12 – 22 June 2014 (with 2 workshop sessions (can be attended in person or online) in late May/ early June)

Location

This unique summer course takes place at **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**. Attendees are advised to meet and travel from Hong Kong to Cambodia together (group tickets can be arranged)

An Excellent Opportunity

The course enriches and deepens service-learning practice through ongoing opportunities for dialogue with experienced service-learning practitioners and peers. As a participant you will develop a deepened practical approach to service-learning, while creating an integrated service-learning plan that meets your own unique curriculum or programme needs. Small study groups will provide participants with an important opportunity to share their key challenges and receive feedback, suggestions and support from fellow participants. Participants also have opportunities to observe and contribute to projects in action.

Who Should Attend

All teachers who are interested in developing or enhancing a credit-bearing service-learning subject are welcome to apply.

Course Fee

HK$6,500 (including air-ticket (HK-Cambodia-HK), accommodations, transportation and basic meals for the 11 days period)

**(PolyU staff who are also members of Community of Practice in Service-Learning are eligible for a full scholarship to cover the course fee)*

How to Apply

Please submit your application form by 14 March 2014 (Friday) by email to oslinfo@polyu.edu.hk. Acceptance will be based on responses to the "application questions" in application form and commitment to attending the course. Notification of acceptance will be sent in late March of 2014.

Enquiries

For any enquiries, please call 2766 6802 or email to oslinfo@polyu.edu.hk.

Course Team Members:

Dr. Josephine M. Ciete (josephine.ciete@polyu.edu.hk)

- Senior Education Development Officer, Educational Development Centre, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Course Coordinator and Learning Designer

Dr. Stephen Chan (stephen.u.chan@polyu.edu.hk)

- Head, Office of Service Learning, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Course Facilitator and Facilitator of Community of Practice in Service-Learning

Dr. Grace Ngai (grace.ngai@polyu.edu.hk)

- Associate Professor, Department of Computing, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Course Facilitator and Coordinator of Sub-committee on Service-Learning Subjects

Ms. Renee Leung (ora.l@polyu.edu.hk)

- Service Learning Officer, Office of Service Learning, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Course administrator

Get-together for CoP-SL members

To welcome our new members, a "Get-together" gathering session will be held on this Friday by CoP in Service-Learning. In this gathering, you are able to:

- Network with other colleagues interested in SL
- Know more about:-
  - i) Staff Development Grant for CoP-SL members;
  - ii) Target and implementation plan for SL subjects for 13/14 and 14/15;
  - iii) Funding model for SL subjects and support from OSL;
  - iv) Possible sources of funding support for overseas SL projects;
  - v) Ongoing TDG projects/proposals on SL; and
  - vi) Work plan for subsequent semesters

To join this gathering, please register as a member of the CoP-SL and fill out the membership form enclosed and send to oslinfo@polyu.edu.hk by 8 Nov before noon.

Consultation Sessions for the Scholarship of Service-Learning

…osting an International Conference on Service-Learning?

…November of 2014 and is focused on the research and practice of service-learning. …le at http://www.osl.polyu.edu.hk/usrsl2014/

…ing a paper, feel free to stop by to discuss your ideas and/or receive feedback on your …sion with a presentation. Instead, people who are involved with Service-Learning will be …ns you have to help you develop a good service-learning paper.

…better prepare for the sessions. Feel free to pass this notice on to interested colleagues. Go to the EDC Website at http://edc.polyu.edu.hk/ and click on the events calendar to register for the session titled "Consultations Sessions for the Scholarship of Service-Learning".

We look forward to seeing you!

University Social Responsibility

The Second Summit on University Social Responsibility cum Inaugural International Conference on Service-Learning

19-21 November, 2014

The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Kowloon, Hong Kong

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

University Social Responsibility

Inaugural International Conference on Service-Learning

20-21 November 2014

This two-day conference is organized by CoP-SL. Through this Conference, we aim to further promote the scholarly development of the relevant theories, models, practices and tools of service-learning, and doing so within a global and comparative context.

Paper Accepted

Full papers	31
Poster abstracts	21
Student papers	5
Total	57

Regions of Authors

Chinese Mainland
Hong Kong
Macao
Philippines
Taiwan
United States
Vietnam

Participants

19th	219
20th	215
21st	211

Objectives

CoP core team works directly with discipline teachers for:

- deeper collaboration
- professional development
- quality of student learning & output
- achievement of program-level learning outcomes

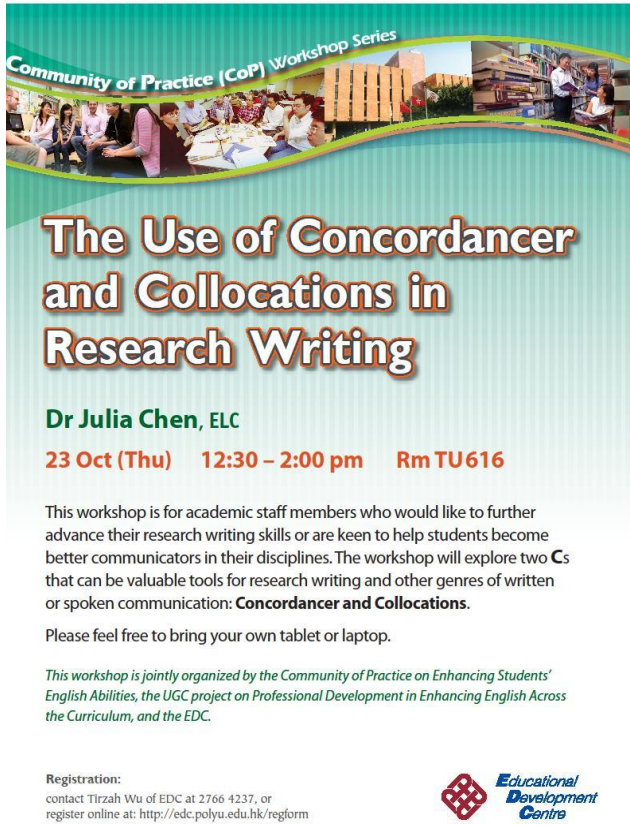
CoP Facilitator Contact

Dr. Julia Chen julia.chen@polyu.edu.hk

Click here for more information:

http://www.polyu.edu.hk/CoP/English/

CoP on Enhancing Students' English Abilities



Objectives

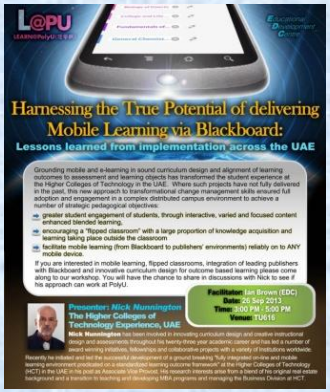
- To bring together and connect colleagues who shares a common interest in enhancing teaching and learning through the use of Learn@PolyU;
- To study and configure the features in Learn@PolyU, develop and deliver innovative and effective teaching practices;
- To foster the culture of peer support and collaborative professional development in the use of LMS and associated technologies;
- To nourish a scholarly and collegial approach to continuing teaching improvement and the scholarship of teaching and learning, especially through blended learning with innovative uses of Learn@PolyU.

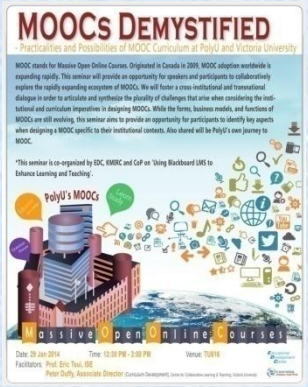
CoP Facilitator Contact

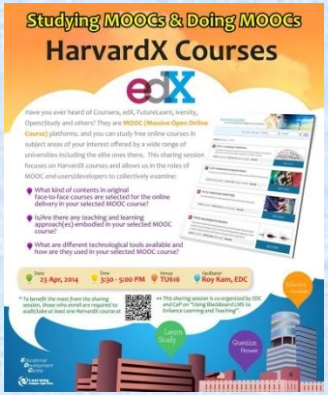
Professor Eric Tsui

eric.tsui@polyu.edu.hk

Seminars sponsored/co-hosted by the CoP on Using Blackboard LMS to Enhance Learning & Teaching







Purpose of PolyU CoPs

- **Knowledge Sharing**
- Helping Communities
- Development of good practices
- Innovation

Membership

- Academic staff who
  - Are interested in blended learning
  - Have contacted ITS for help with Learn@PolyU
  - Applied for Teaching & Learning development grants on E-Learning
  - Recipients of President's & Faculty's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- ITS & EDC staff who are familiar with Learn@PolyU
- EDC staff who are familiar with Instructional Design
- SAO representative
- Student representative(s)

Structure

- Community web page
  - Community goals, members' profiles, News, Announcements, Q&A, Videos, etc.
- Subscription/Access to CoP learning materials
- Attendance at CoP events (seminars, courses, workshops)
- An Award/Incentive scheme (Development funds)

Activities

- Promotion via Leaflets, Posters, Videos, souvenirs etc.
- Regular bi-monthly meetings
  - Collection & sharing of issues, good practices from PolyU (e.g. ACE) & outside
  - Explore how to use Learn@PolyU to support university strategic objectives & operational issues
  - Core members take turn to lead/present each time
  - Invite external speakers to share specific topics (In-person & online presentations)

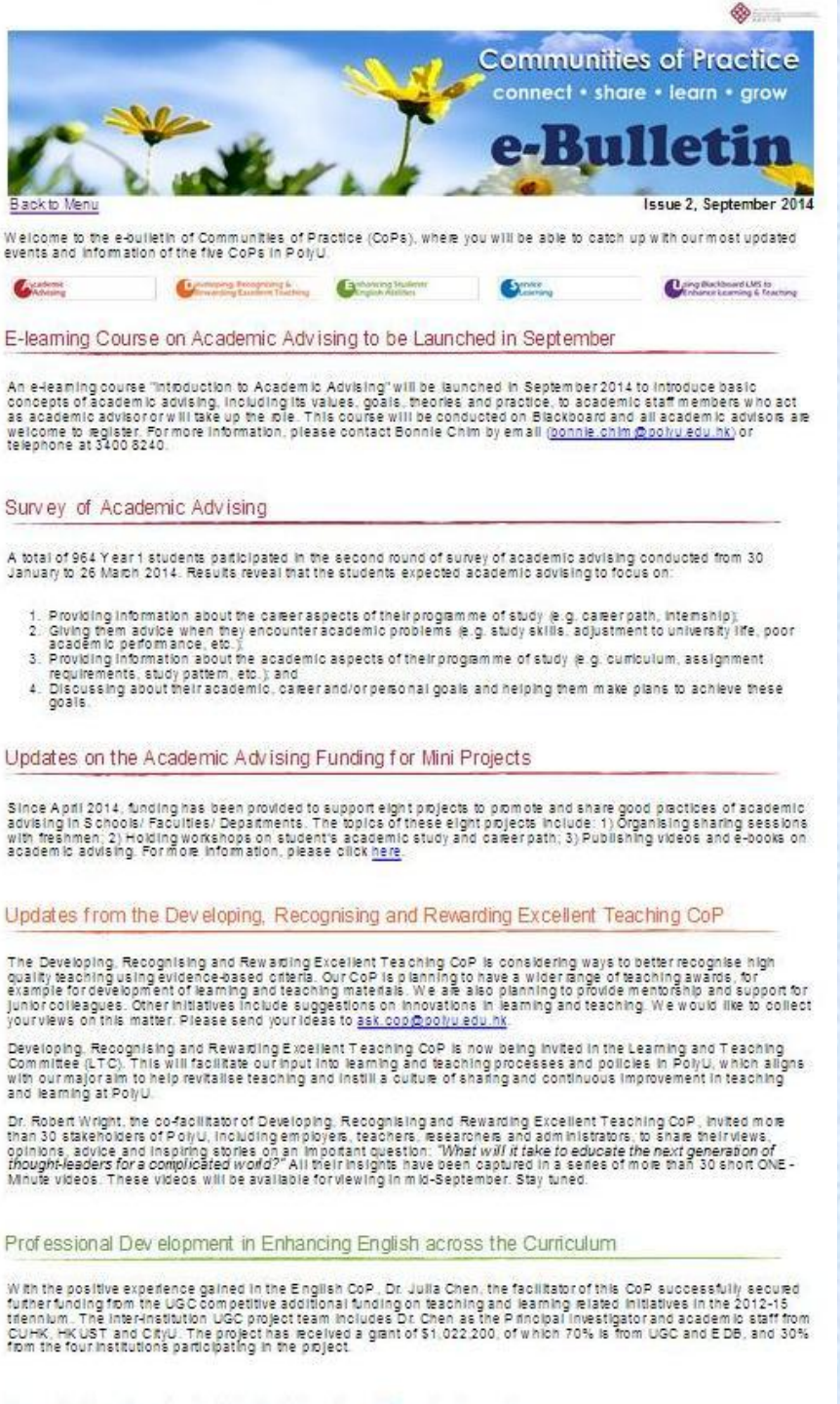
Activities (cont.)

- Participation in Induction programs/courses for new teachers
- Host CoP Forums (this one & another one linking up all universities' CoPs in HK)
- Support events including those hosted by other CoPs
- Social events

CoP e-Bulletins

The CoP e-bulletin is published every one or two months with updated news of what is happening in the five CoPs.

The issues of CoP e-bulletin can be found on the CoP website: http://www.polyu.edu.hk/CoP/what_is_new.php



Communities of Practice
connect • share • learn • grow
e-Bulletin

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Issue 2, September 2014

Welcome to the e-bulletin of Communities of Practice (CoPs), where you will be able to catch up with our most updated events and information of the five CoPs in PolyU.

E-learning Course on Academic Advising to be Launched in September

An e-learning course "Introduction to Academic Advising" will be launched in September 2014 to introduce basic concepts of academic advising, including its values, goals, theories and practice, to academic staff members who act as academic advisor or will take up the role. This course will be conducted on Blackboard and all academic advisors are welcome to register. For more information, please contact Bonnie Chim by email (bonnie.chim@polyu.edu.hk) or telephone at 3400 8240.

Survey of Academic Advising

A total of 964 Year 1 students participated in the second round of survey of academic advising conducted from 30 January to 26 March 2014. Results reveal that the students expected academic advising to focus on:

1. Providing information about the career aspects of their programme of study (e.g. career path, internship);
2. Giving them advice when they encounter academic problems (e.g. study skills, adjustment to university life, poor academic performance, etc.);
3. Providing information about the academic aspects of their programme of study (e.g. curriculum, assignment requirements, study pattern, etc.); and
4. Discussing about their academic, career and/or personal goals and helping them make plans to achieve these goals.

Updates on the Academic Advising Funding for Mini Projects

Since April 2014, funding has been provided to support eight projects to promote and share good practices of academic advising in Schools/ Faculties/ Departments. The topics of these eight projects include: 1) Organising sharing sessions with freshmen; 2) Holding workshops on student's academic study and career path; 3) Publishing videos and e-books on academic advising. For more information, please click here.

Updates from the Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching CoP

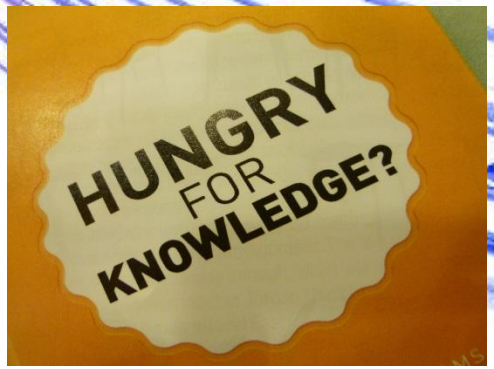
The Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching CoP is considering ways to better recognise high quality teaching using evidence-based criteria. Our CoP is planning to have a wider range of teaching awards, for example for development of learning and teaching materials. We are also planning to provide mentorship and support for junior colleagues. Other initiatives include suggestions on innovations in learning and teaching. We would like to collect your views on this matter. Please send your ideas to ask.cop@polyu.edu.hk.

Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching CoP is now being invited in the Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC). This will facilitate our input into learning and teaching processes and policies in PolyU, which aligns with our major aim to help revitalise teaching and instill a culture of sharing and continuous improvement in teaching and learning at PolyU.

Dr. Robert Wright, the co-facilitator of Developing, Recognising and Rewarding Excellent Teaching CoP, invited more than 30 stakeholders of PolyU, including employers, teachers, researchers and administrators, to share their views, opinions, advice and inspiring stories on an important question: *"What will it take to educate the next generation of thought-leaders for a complicated world?"* All their insights have been captured in a series of more than 30 short ONE-Minute videos. These videos will be available for viewing in mid-September. Stay tuned.

Professional Development in Enhancing English across the Curriculum

With the positive experience gained in the English CoP, Dr. Julia Chen, the facilitator of this CoP successfully secured further funding from the UGC competitive additional funding on teaching and learning related initiatives in the 2012-15 triennium. The inter-institution UGC project team includes Dr. Chen as the Principal Investigator and academic staff from CUHK, HKUST and CityU. The project has received a grant of $1,022,200, of which 70% is from UGC and EDB, and 30% from the four institutions participating in the project.



Our learning so far …

- "One size fits all" does NOT work for CoPs; each CoP needs a customised approach
- Start with a group of passionate core members
- Focus also on existing issue(s); target members who are "knowledge hungry"
- Membership growth is NOT a decisive indicator for CoP's success
- CoPs may spin off more CoPs (e.g. CoP on LMS leads to the launch of another CoP on MOOCs)

Our challenges …

1. How to attract members when everyone carries a high workload?
2. How to change perceptions that CoP activities are additional workload for staff?
3. How to provide a social and cosy environment to nurture CoPs for deep knowledge and experience sharing?

THE HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY
香港理工大學

Communities of Practice

Come & Join Us!

For general enquiries, please contact:
ask.cop@polyu.edu.hk