Expression of Interest (EoI):
Communities of Practice (CoP) Initiative

As part of the Teaching Excellence Initiatives the office of the DVCE is supporting academic and professional staff to develop their own Communities of Practice (CoP) for innovation and best practice in higher education. Up to $20,000 will be awarded to each CoP as a form of support.

What are Communities of Practice?
Communities of Practice (CoP) are a collaborative group of people with a common interest, where knowledge is shared and developed through regular virtual or physical interaction.1 CoP have a strong potential to influence informal learning experiences, satisfaction in learning and job performance, and further allows for best practice to be shared across an organisation.2 This framework supports multidisciplinary perspectives, and enables its members to identify, share and initiate a change in approach and practice to their area of interest.3

The CoP framework:

- Enables a peer support structure that enhances individual practice;4
- Provides means to foster peer-mentoring relationships;5
- Develops ways to utilise shared understanding of vital issues for the promotion and contribution of change;6,7
- Supports a multidisciplinary approach to a particular theme of interest, promoting a collective response and strengthen collaborative ties across disciplines;8,9 and
- Is a platform for CoP to contribute to institution-wide strategies and programs.10

Requirements of UWA Communities of Practice
1. A theme or area of interest for a CoP should be;
   - Teaching and learning focused;
   - Innovative; and
   - Multidisciplinary.

2. Have a minimum of one CoP lead, who will be required to:
   - Share their passion, knowledge and develop their expertise in their shared domain;
   - Maintain communication with the Educational Enhancement Unit (EEU);
   - Attend and facilitate the CoP;
   - Coordinate and submit a one-page bi-annual report; and
   - Be responsible for funding spent in accordance with agreed stipulations.

3. Have at least 10 members from multidisciplinary areas, who will be required to:
   - Attend CoP discussions and contribute actively;
   - Share their passion, knowledge and develop their expertise in their shared domain;
   - Commit to sharing the knowledge and skills developed with peers in their work areas; and
   - Members can be academic and/or professional, casual/sessional or fixed term staff.

4. Take part in the Communities of Practice workshop held November 2nd, as part of the Teaching Excellence Conference and workshop program (register here).

UWA CoPI EoI
Process to create Communities of Practice

1. A completed EoI should be submitted to the Educational Enhancement Unit (EEU): mailto:cop-euu@uwa.edu.au by November 1st, 2018 in time to participate in the mandatory CoP Workshop held 2nd November.
   a. To ensure that there is sufficient interest in each CoP theme, CoP leads have been asked to include the names of 10 members. Whilst it is highly recommended that an EoI is submitted with 10 members; if CoP leads cannot reach full membership at EOI stage we request a few dots on how the lead plans to recruit members into their CoP.

2. Attend the CoP Workshop with Kristin Warr (The University of Tasmania), 2nd November in the Carpe Diem Studio. Register here. The workshop will give the proposed CoP lead, and any other attending members an opportunity to flesh out the aims and objectives of their proposed CoP.

3. After the workshop, participants will be required to complete a CoP application form outlining their aims, objectives and details of how they will spend up to $20,000 funding. Closing deadline for applications will be 6th November.

4. The selection panel will then assess applications against the criteria outlined below.

5. All CoP applicants will be notified of the outcome.

6. In order to assist CoP to progress, the EEU will provide some support in recruiting members, or with other aspects of the CoP.

Selection Criteria

1. Facilitate interaction and collaboration across academic disciplines.
2. Support innovation across University.
3. Promote best practice initiatives across the University.
4. Embed the sharing of knowledge to ensure sustainability of CoP.

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3 See Wenger, McDermott, & Snyder, Cultivating Communities of Practice
5 Shapiro & Levine, Creating Learning Communities
6 Shapiro & Levine, Creating Learning Communities
# Expression of Interest form

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<th>Communities of Practice</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CoP Focus Area</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Primary Purpose/Need for CoP</strong></td>
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Do you already have other participants interested in working with you in a CoP? If so, please list them below;

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If 10 member names are not listed above, please describe in a few short dot points how you will engage new members into the CoP.

For any queries regarding the CoP Initiative, please contact the Educational Enhancement Unit at: cop-eeu@uwa.edu.au