

EDC Grant Update Report

Mapping the Canadian ED Landscape: Demographics and Practices of Post-Secondary Educational Development Centres

Principal Investigator: Dr. Nicola Simmons

Centre for Teaching Excellence (CTE), University of Waterloo
MC 4053, 200 University Avenue West, Waterloo ON N2L 3G1
nsimmons@uwaterloo.ca
519-888-4567, x32940

The purpose of this collaborative national study is to describe the demographics and practices of Canadian post-secondary (university and college) Educational Development (ED) centres, with the overall intention of gathering and compiling sharable information.

We have found our work moving forward, but more slowly than anticipated. In this report we outline what we have accomplished, how we have revised our plan to support moving forward, and what we anticipate as next steps.

Of Interest

Our research philosophy has been to be completely inclusive at each stage of the work, allowing researchers to step on and off the team as their own time and interests permit. Thus we had several researchers named on the original grant, nearly twenty assisting with the literature review (we each read and summarized two articles), and about half a dozen compiling the initial stage data. We will shortly make a further announcement to the EDC listserv to invite interested persons to join us for further data collection.

Work Completed

- International literature review that led us to compile 39 questions about Educational Development Centre practices and demographics.
- Set-up Sharepoint site as communication platform for research group, currently houses our literature summaries.

- Hired part-time research assistant to assist research group in compiling collected data into summary chart.
- Presented work so far at EDC 2009, sought input on questions: which of the 39 compiled are of most use. This was a great re-energizer to our process, giving lots of input.
- Made chart of initial findings available; follow up from conference discussion and chart will be emailed to all participants.
- Submitted conference proposal to STLHE 2009.

Key Learning for Our Ongoing Process

- Need to determine which questions can be answered through website searches, and which will require follow up emails. Feedback indicates Centre Directors more likely to complete a partially filled in template.
- We are considering submitting SSHRC funding proposal, likely focusing on SoTL practices. We have become aware how much time is involved in collecting this data and compiling it!
- We determined we did not need to submit an Ethics proposal re: emails to ED Centres for additional data as demographic information is outside the scope of the Tri-Council Policy Statement requirements.

Next Steps

- We intend to write a literature summary article to share our literature review, which we think could inform others' work.
- We will take input from the EDC conference session and use that summary and corresponding graph to plan which questions we will take forward, and will then invite others to respond to those questions. We hope to continue to add centres to the chart – and have two new respondents following the EDC conference – but it is clear that responding to all 39 is likely to be too onerous for most centres.
- Over the summer and early fall, we anticipate compiling our findings to date into a journal article, and for posting on the EDC website.