

Report of the New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education Annual Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, 20-21 March 2003

The New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education (NZACE) annual conference was held in conjunction with the Association's AGM at the Grand Chancellor Hotel Christchurch, New Zealand. The conference theme was *Mutually Responsive Partnerships: Successes and Challenges* and a reasonable number of delegates attended a variety of paper presentations. There were a number of presentations concerned with underlying theory. Eames began with a description of sociocultural views of learning and later in the program he described part of his research into students' learning in a science and technology program to show how these theories can inform our understanding of co-op. Cultural issues for Maori were also informed by sociocultural views in a paper presented by Paku who looked at co-op's role in aiding enculturation of Maori into science and technology careers. Grainger et al. looked at employers' views of workplace competencies, providing some qualitative findings whereas Hodges et al. looked at a quantitative study of business sector employers' views in a similar vein. Treveni discussed sponsored research projects between industry and academia and Llyod described her work on matching of employers with students. Assessment proved a big issue with papers by Hodges et al., who proposed a framework for co-op assessment along with several potential models; and Seton who described a portfolio approach in some detail. The employer's and student's voice was heard in a panel discussion involving recent co-op graduates and their employers, along with a presentation from Walley from the Canterbury Manufacturer's Association. Ethical standards for co-op were discussed by Fleming and Walton, and Levien talked about 'swotting' for co-op, with Wieck looking at preparation for placements. Hoskyn looked at career branding via co-op and Coll et al. talked about the role co-op might play in education for sustainability.

Papers are currently under review and will be produced as refereed proceedings (and some have been sent to APJCE for full publication). More detail about the conference and New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education are available from the NZACE web site (<http://www.nzace.ac.nz>).

All contributors to the NZACE conference are encouraged to submit research reports and position papers to APJCE for publication (email: editor@apjce.org).

Chris Eames
Chairperson
New Zealand Association for Cooperative Education
Auckland, New Zealand
(c.eames@waikato.ac.nz).

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