

TEACHING AND LEARNING FORUM 2004
– SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT - Presenting an idea or experience

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TITLE: Developing Beginning Teachers-as-Researchers.

ABSTRACT:

This session focuses on our concerns as teacher educators to develop 'beginning teachers-as-researchers'. We report on developments made in 2003 that have sought to provide final semester students with the skills, knowledge and interest to establish research as an integral and ongoing element of professional practice and professional development. In 2003 we brought students from two different research units together at the end of semester for a student conference, simulating the conference experience and presentation expectations. The presentation includes a discussion of the challenges associated with trying to achieve authenticity in teaching and learning processes in units focusing on teacher or action-research. The dilemmas arising in unit design when attempting to balance short-term university study requirements with longer term professional interests are highlighted. In conclusion directions for future developments are considered.

KEY WORDS: teacher-research; beginning teachers; teacher education.

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