

## RUN LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2023

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**Title:** Empowering Regional Accounting Students: A Multifaceted Approach to Learning and Teaching Innovation

**Abstract:** This presentation outlines an innovative approach to teaching accounting in regional Australian universities, addressing unique challenges faced by first-generation students and those perceiving accounting as unengaging. Drawing from personal experiences and social learning theory, the lecturer developed a teaching philosophy emphasising social capital, social learning, and intersectionality. The innovative learning and teaching strategy comprises three key elements:

1. Authentic learning experiences through regional industry collaborations,
2. A social learning initiative connecting current students with successful alumni, and
3. Cross-disciplinary mobility grants for international problem-solving experiences.

These innovations are underpinned by strong pastoral care, creating a supportive learning environment. The outcomes of this approach have been significant, including decreased attrition rates, improved employment rates (100% for Fraser Coast campus accounting graduates), and prestigious scholarship awards for students. Most notably, the initiative has fostered a mindset shift among regional students, transforming perceived disadvantages into unique strengths. This holistic approach not only educates skilled accountants but also empowers a generation of confident regional leaders ready to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the global stage.