

Eventually Everything Connects – People, Ideas, Objects.

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Biography:

I have worked as a careers professional for 18 years. In 2017 I was awarded CDAA Career Practitioner of the Year, and I have served on the CDAA NSW committee for 6 years. I teach the Graduate Certificate in Career Education and Transition (UNE), providing professionally accredited career education and training to teachers and practitioners across Australia. Twelve months ago I added another role to my portfolio career when I began working at UNE to design Bespoke courses and set up a career concierge team. The aim of this project is to deliver personalised and accessible education to meet individuals' personal career objectives. In part, this project is a response to the challenges that have been identified in a series of government funded projects that I have been working on over the past 5 years that seek to address the challenges presented by generational disadvantage and youth unemployment across regional NSW.

The workshop uses a case study to illustrate the core tenets of the Psychology of Working Theory (Blustein, Duffy) demonstrating how the Career Development profession can play a pivotal role in bringing about meaningful and effective collaboration to address significant social, economic and political challenges.

This presentation will outline how relationships were fostered, and a mutual focus on career development was engendered over a number of years as a regional network of qualified career practitioners worked together with agencies from government, education and employment on various joint initiatives, starting back in 2013-14 with the CDAA Future of Work roadshow.

The 2018 Future of Work Forum, which is the subject of this case study, was made possible by connecting key stakeholders with strong shared professional relationships.

The Forum was a collaboration between University of New England, NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and NSW Department of Education. The headline event was held on 13th September 2018, when 1500 high school students came from across NSW to the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre to hear USA Google's Education Evangelist, Jaime Casap, speak about the Future of Work. This was the precursor to an evening event, Future of Work Regional Forum, where 120 leaders from business, government and education came together to brainstorm ideas to address shared challenges. A summary of the key recommendations was sent to government, and will be shared with this conference. The Forum organising committee will host follow up workshops in 2019 across regional centres in northern NSW.

By the time the CDAA Conference is held in September 2019, I will be able to report on the outcomes from these follow-up meetings. There has already been subsequent significant joint initiatives across the education sector between UNE, TAFE and schools.