
Professor Miriam Tanti - Workshop

LA TROBE'S NEXUS PROGRAM: SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES WORKING TOGETHER TO PRODUCE PROFESSION-READY TEACHERS

La Trobe's Nexus program is an innovative employment-based pathway into primary and secondary teaching. At the heart of this model is the creation of a community of practice that includes pre-service teachers, school-based mentors, university mentors and the broader school and community. This presentation emphasises the critical role of the school-university partnership and how both school and university mentors provide essential support. This support is pivotal in nurturing and developing teachers for the hard-to-staff schools where they are placed.

The presentation will detail the role of school and university mentors and the insights they gain about Nexus students during their time as Education Support Officers (or Learning Support Officers). These findings have been collected through a document analysis of resources for Nexus student, as well as an inductive thematic analysis of the correspondence between university mentors and Nexus students from the 2021 (n = 17) and 2022 (n = 22) cohorts, school principals, and school mentors. The implications of these findings will be explored, including the future directions for the Nexus program. These insights significantly contribute to the understanding of the importance of mentors, both school and university-based, in transforming university-school partnerships and enhancing employment-based initial teacher education programs.