

# **Distributed and collaborative: Experiences of local leadership of a first year experience program**

Jo McKenzie and Kathy Egea, University of Technology Sydney.

## **Abstract**

*The first year experience (FYE) is a domain in which local level leadership is critical for engaging academics in taking a whole of curriculum focus on student transition and success, and working collaboratively with professional staff. This paper describes ways in which local leadership is experienced at the faculty level in an institutional FYE program, based on interviews with faculty coordinators and small grant recipients. Initial analysis using the distributed leadership tenets described by Jones, Hadgraft, Harvey, Lefoe and Ryland (2014a) revealed features, such as collaborative communities, that enabled success, as well as differences across faculties. More fine grained analysis indicated further themes in engaging others, enabling and enacting the FYE program: gaining buy-in; being opportunistic; the need for evidence of success and recognition; the need for collegial support for coordinators and self-perceptions of 'leadership' being about making connections, collaboration, trust and expertise.*

**This article was presented at the 2017 STARS Conference in Adelaide, Australia in July 2017 and selected for publication in *Student Success* Volume 8, Issue 2.**

**Access published article <https://studentsuccessjournal.org/article/view/382>**