

Scholarship Feedback - Educate Plus Conference – Gold Coast 2016

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What a privilege it was to attend such an inspiring, informative and truly enjoyable conference and my thanks goes to Educate Plus NZ and PNBHS for giving me the opportunity. I met some wonderful and inspiring people who have a true passion for not only the work they do but for helping others also.

At the beginning of the conference we were challenged to take home "Three Things" and like me, I'm sure everyone who attended did exactly that. The sessions I attended were all very informative, with great speakers who had a vast depth of knowledge on their discussion topic.

The three things I came home with were:

1. The importance of creating systems

Effective alumni engagement depends on the establishment of systems to monitor and maintain it over time. This includes both how to get in touch with alumni, and what to say when you do. Successful communication, and the consequent benefits, hinge on alumni receiving relevant messages at the right time and in the right way for them.

2. Embed the alumni process with students before they leave

Inform current students on what alumni is and how they can get involved. Ensure you have their personal emails and also encourage them to inform you when their contact details and any other relevant information changes.

3. The definition of success

Success = the right person asking, at the right time, for the right amount, for the right project.

These three points will certainly be valuable for our organisation as we move forward with our strategies to enhance the work we do in the areas of fundraising, alumni and advancement.

The conference was truly inspiring and I'd also like to acknowledge that the professionalism, knowledge and willingness from other members of Educate Plus to share their expertise was extraordinary. I learnt so much and am certainly looking forward to future conferences to grow and develop further.