

60-Second SoTL

Episode 80 – Student Perspectives on High-Quality Work-Integrated Learning

Featured Article

Drewery, David, Michelle J. Eady, and Wincy Li. 2026. "Six Essential Elements of High-Quality Work-Integrated Learning Experiences: A Thematic Analysis of Students' Voices." *Teaching & Learning Inquiry* 14: 1–16.

<https://doi.org/10.20343/teachlearninqu.14.11>

Transcript

(Music)

0:10

Jessie L. Moore:

From students' perspectives, what makes a work-integrated learning experience truly high quality? That's the focus of this week's 60-second SoTL from Elon University's Center for Engaged Learning. I'm Jessie Moore.

(Music)

0:27

In "Six Essential Elements of High-Quality Work-Integrated Learning Experiences," David Drewery, Michelle Eady, and Wincy Li center student voice to better understand what defines meaningful work-integrated learning—or WIL. Their article appears in *Teaching & Learning Inquiry*, an open access journal.

0:45

Drawing on 30 semi-structured interviews with students across three countries—Australia, Canada, and the United States—and multiple disciplines, the authors used thematic analysis to determine what students themselves identify as the essential elements of a high-quality WIL experience.

1:02

Their findings highlight six essential elements. High-quality WIL experiences are shaped when students: bring a strong learning mindset, maintain balance with other life commitments, and feel they are making a meaningful difference. Just as importantly, students emphasize opportunities for personal and professional growth, a sense of belonging within the workplace, and access to strong mentorship and support from both supervisors and institutions.

1:31

Notably, this study surfaces two elements sometimes overlooked in prior research: the importance of students' own mindset and the need to balance WIL with other life demands. The findings also suggest that high-quality WIL isn't just designed by institutions—it's co-created through partnerships among students, educators, and workplace mentors.

1:54

To learn more about this study, visit our show notes for a link to the open access article.

(Music)

2:04

Jessie Moore:

Join us for our next episode of 60-second SoTL from Elon University's Center for Engaged Learning for another snapshot of recent scholarship of teaching and learning. Learn more about the Center at www.CenterForEngagedLearning.org.

(Music)