

OPENING SESSION

SPEAKER 2: Leanne Atkinson, South West TAFE

Working with Students

The Job

- Employed by the institute and seconded to TAFE Students Representative Council
- Employed to provide a range of services to TAFE SRC
- Go around to classes explaining what a student representative does and encourage students to run
- Training: Sit down with each student representative and find out where they come from - start training from there and try and build up confidence
- Many reps want me (staff) to do their work but I try to facilitate their ideas - eg. suggests ways to deal with topic - often involving community activists /groups
- Readjusted their attitudes to their roles, and what they need to do to complete their roles ie go out and talk to students
- Ensure the SA is running and that students are getting their money's worth

The Students

- Students are nominated by department
- Mix of students and there have been a lot of changes - more students are made to go to two TAFEs because of government changes.
- Average student age is 34 – regional and rural
- Listening power: set up an area where student reps and Leanne start up conversations that other students participate in so that reps can listen to students and their problems/issues
- Honorarium for five executive reps, \$1000 a year for pres and \$250 for others. Built into policy that at end of term SRC votes whether they feel the executive has earned their honorarium.