

Presenter:

Dr Stuart Middleton

Title:

Investing in Success: The Cheap Option

Abstract:

Dr Stuart Middleton has been in 2007-2008 a member of the Fulbright New Century Scholars Programme which brought together 20 scholars as a global think tank to grapple with issues of access and equity in higher education.

In this presentation he will outline trends of tertiary education systems with regard to success and failure that in combination with both the changing demographics and the changing nature economies, present challenges to tertiary education that require not only further investment but also some significant redirection of current investment. If those investments in education are to bring richer dividends there will have to be significant changes to the ways that tertiary education systems relate to secondary education systems. There will also need to be new and different pathways for students to move into high level programmes that will qualify them for the workforce. Some of the current investment is wasted and the hidden investment in education failure is not money thrown away but also a cause for increased social spending that brings little positive gain to the community. Stuart Middleton will pursue the view that investing in educational success is, in fact, the cheap option. He will argue that change is urgently needed.