

Speech for VP(AD) for the Teaching and Learning Innovation Award Ceremony

Good afternoon colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here today to celebrate the various achievements of PolyU staff in relation to Teaching and Learning Innovation.

The Spotlight on eLearning week and the Teaching and Learning Innovation Award are one of many initiatives from the 3C project – a strategic initiative with the aim of enhancing the blended learning culture at PolyU. Various activities and support structures across the areas of collaboration, community and context have been established to enable staff to use eLearning and Blended Learning more often and in better ways.

The establishment of the 3C project as an institutional initiative and the intent to enhance the existing eLearning and Blended Learning culture at PolyU has not started like the Big Bang. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University has an established history of incorporating eLearning within teaching and learning. PolyU's third Strategic Plan from 2009 to 2012 identifies the goal *"To promote the wider use of blended-learning (i.e. a combination of e-learning and face-to-face teaching/learning) to enhance quality"*.

The Spotlight on eLearning week has been an opportunity to review and reflect on the excellent work PolyU staff have achieved to date. Also, I would like to extend congratulations to the Showcase presentations on display here today. The field of eLearning is frequently a mixing of new technology and old pedagogy, and, it is pleasing to see the very innovative blended learning approaches used by PolyU staff across a wide range of disciplines. This is in line with PolyU's Position paper on eLearning which states foremost that PolyU is committed to actively promoting and supporting the effective use of modern educational technologies in all learning endeavours.

We are also very lucky to have here Prof. Diana Laurillard from the Institute of Education in the UK visiting PolyU and providing her insight and expertise in relation to the area of eLearning. I am sure PolyU staff have benefitted from her visit and the opportunities provided by her workshops, consultations and open lecture earlier today, and I thank her for her contribution to PolyU in the area of eLearning.

The PolyU educational community is faced with a number of key challenges over the next few years, including the introduction of the 3+3+4 education reform, the ongoing implementation of outcome-based education, and a continuing focus on the provision of a practical and applied learning environment (inclusive of Work Integrated Education). These challenges present us with a unique opportunity to transform teaching and learning and to consider the appropriate use of technology in enhancing the student learning experience at PolyU.

Also, the review of PolyU's Learning Management System provides an opportunity for all staff to help answer the question of which eLearning platform to use at PolyU in the future and I encourage all colleagues and students to contribute to this process.

Finally, my heartfelt congratulations to all 20 individual and team applicants for the Inaugural Teaching and Learning Award and in particular the 4 finalists, Dr David Herold and Team; Mr Paul Penfold, Prof. Eric Tsui and Dr Marco Pang for their success.

I hope all of you have been inspired by the short presentations given by the Finalists and, by the Showcase posters. Most importantly, I wish that you can take away some 'spark' or 'idea' suitable for your own teaching from these innovations.

Thank you.