Exploring leadership capacity development for learning and teaching

This project involves the design and trialing of a leadership capacity development program. The program, underpinned by theories of authentic learning, social constructivism and communities of practice, engages potential leaders (scholars) from Australian Universities in leadership development activities including:

1. **An authentic action learning project**: Each scholar leads a faculty-based action learning project, related to assessment. This core project activity was key to the development of leadership knowledge, understanding, skills, and capacity.

2. **Strategic mentoring and coaching**: Scholars engage in a range of collaborative partnerships including: institutional and cross-institutional peer mentoring, strategic leadership coaching with a senior institutional leader, mentoring with the institutional facilitator and individual mentoring with a personal mentor.

3. **A national roundtable**: Scholars organise and facilitate a National Assessment Roundtable, which enables them to present and receive feedback on their projects; to showcase their contributions and to network with peers who are contributing to improving assessment practice in higher education.

“I have a better sense of myself as a leader than I did before this project. I really wasn’t sure I could be a leader whereas now I know what attributes I have. I have a sense of what skills I need to continue to develop to be a good leader and I have an appreciation that leadership is not necessarily about the position you hold, or your personal achievements. … leadership is about finding ways of bringing about sustainable enduring change … to make teaching, learning and student assessment more effective.”

(2007 Scholar)