

Innovative Collaboration Wins Funding and Industry Support

Victoria University and the Building & Construction Industry

An innovative collaboration between industry and Victoria University is creating a Building Practice Firm, complete with 6-star sustainable building, which provides Learning in the Workplace and Community (LiWC) experiences to a wide range of higher education and TAFE students.



The building project, a joint venture of the University's VET (Vocational Education and Training) Faculty of Technical and Trades Innovation, and the higher education Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, has received a \$182,000 Commonwealth Government grant and significant industry contributions.

'Our aim is to build and enhance strong pathways, from the VET sector to higher education, and from higher education to the VET sector, through collaboration and the incorporation of LiWC,' says Lyn Hannah, Manager Teaching and Learning for the Faculty of Technical and Trades Innovation.

Building construction

Construction of the portable building in Newport has already provided significant practical learning opportunities for carpentry, plumbing, painting and electrical pre-apprentices and apprentices, along with diploma and advanced diploma students in advanced building — design and surveying.

The building, which will be completed later this year and moved to Victoria University's Sunshine campus, comprises consulting and project management rooms, and a kitchen and bathroom.

It will house an Advanced Building Firm operating as a commercial venture providing LiWC for diploma, advanced diploma and degree students in engineering, building surveying and building design, along with learning opportunities for other students.

'The community and businesses will be able to access services offered at a reduced cost,' says Ms Hannah. 'Students will be involved in a range of tasks, such as auto cad drawings for engineering works, design and surveying services.'

Strong industry support

Peter Turner, Acting Senior Program Manager, Construction Industries at the University, says industry has been 'fully supportive' of the project.

'Donations of materials and advice have come from City Timber, Atkar, Trend Windows, Hutton Insulation, Bondor, building removalist Peter Johannesen, Paint Spot, Rheem, Caroma, Clark and Dorf.'