

Volunteers as Champions of Diversity: Similar experiences; dissimilar cultural background.

Kath McCulloch, Jeanne Wee and Josie Ferrone

University of Adelaide, Hub Central
North Terrace Adelaide, South Australia, 5005
kath.mcculloch@adelaide.edu.au

Abstract

The University of Adelaide's Orientation Volunteer Program provides an excellent opportunity for current undergraduate students to share their knowledge and experiences with new students. Orientation Volunteers represent the University at our North Terrace campus and greatly assist the *Ask Adelaide* team during the orientation period. The *Ask Adelaide* team is situated in the 'heart of the University' Hub Central.

Volunteers indicate that despite some superficial differences, starting university provides the opportunity for common ground as students are recognised as 'similar kind' across cultures. This provides the motivation for volunteers to invest their personal energy, time and skills. In designing a Volunteer Program we aim to capitalise on diversity using a wide range of 'different' student volunteers.

This paper explores Orientation Volunteers impressions of new student differences and how this in turn effects how they work with new students.

Keywords

Orientation

Volunteers

Cross-cultural diversity