



PBL Academy Newsletter – February 2015

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2015. The quality of education is high on the agenda both nationally and as a central focus in the development of the new AAU Strategy 2015 – 2020. This also means a focus on PBL as our approach to learning which we need to maintain and develop in the years to come. Consequently 2015 will be a busy and exciting year, with numerous activities hosted by the PBL Academy. Read more here and be updated at www.pbl.aau.dk.

Since the last newsletter

Seminar on PBL and Progression

On 28 January about 30 people attended the PBL Academy afternoon debate on PBL and progression in our educations. Following a brief presentation on the international and Danish Qualification Framework to which all higher educations must comply, there was a lively and nuanced debate about what progression means and how PBL may be a tool and strategy to assist students reaching the competencies set out in their education. The debate and the many relevant points made clearly show a continuous need to debate and exchange views on PBL across faculties and educations.

PBL Academy to be advisory board for AAU Learning Lab

As part of its strategy to ensure cross-faculty anchoring of activities, AAU Learning Lab has asked the PBL Academy to serve in an advisory capacity. This means that the PBL Academy will be invited to comment on on-going and propose new activities and hopefully in this way contribute to a solid program of activities allowing all AAU staff to continue to focus on issues of education and PBL.

Up-coming events

The PBL Academy invites to a seminar on the use of flexible learning environments with PBL. The seminar takes place 11 March 13.00 – 16.00. At the seminar several cases and best practices of flexible learning environments will be presented and discussed. Please read full invite and sign up [here](#).

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

New issue

The new issue of JPBLHE is now accessible at <http://ojs.aub.aau.dk/index.php/pbl/issue/view/103>. The next issue will be a special issue on PBL and creativity.

Reviewers needed

The journal is gaining recognition and for this reason we are constantly looking for dedicated reviewers. Therefore if you are doing research in PBL and would like to contribute to the consolidation of the journal please contact journal editor Thomas Ryberg, ryberg@hum.aau.dk.

Call for papers

You find the general call for papers for JPBLHE [here](#). Please circulate this call in relevant networks both internally and internationally.



Working groups and activities

Working group on flexible learning environments

This working group is nearing the conclusion of the work with seminar mentioned above on 11 March. Following the seminar presentations will be made available to all staff at AAU as a source of inspiration on flexible learning environments, and a new working group with participants from all faculties will after the seminar be established to follow up on the issue.

Working group on PBL and progression

Following seminar in January a working group is being put together. The group will be looking at different models and strategies making the use of PBL to ensure progression and development of both academic and general competencies visible through an entire education. The results of this work will be made available later in the year.

Standard presentation on PBL at AAU

Many AAU staff each year make great efforts to present the university and in this our PBL model of education. This is well reflected in the many requests for slides and other input for presentations received by the PBL Academy. Each education and each department has their own characteristics and so this will always require that presentations are tailored to the specific event. However, the PBL Academy has made an overall standard presentation which briefly explains the overall PBL principles of AAU. If you wish to make use of this presentation please contact our secretary Jane Bak Andersen jba@learning.aau.dk

Out-reach activities

On 4 February we delivered a short general introduction to PBL to our new international students.

On 10 February we met with Amelia May to discuss the AAU PBL model and research. This formed part of her visit to AAU with the purpose of establishing an abroad exchange program for students with Minot State University (US).

The PBL Academy

This year PBL is high on the agenda at AAU and we are here to support this focus. We therefore invite all who have suggestions for seminars, debates or other activities to contact us.

Diana Stentoft, chair (SUND) – stentoft@hst.aau.dk

Bettina Dahl Søndergaard (TEKNAT) – bdahls@plan.aau.dk

Erik Laursen (SAMF) - el@learning.aau.dk

Jakob Davidsen (HUM) – jackd@hum.aau.dk

Jane Bak Andersen (secretary) – jba@learning.aau.dk