



PBL Academy Newsletter

Welcome to this newsletter for the PBL Academy at Aalborg University. This is the first version of a new short format intended as a gateway to information about PBL activities, news and events. The newsletter is published once every quarter to keep all readers abreast with AAU PBL initiatives. Please contact the PBL Academy if you wish to have events included in the next newsletter. Write to pbl@pbl.aau.dk

Since the last newsletter

The PBL Academy continues to engage in a range of activities. We finally completed our annual report for 2013 which is available [here](#).

The steering committee of the Academy has also seen some changes in the position held by the Faculty of Humanities professor Thomas Ryberg has decided to step down after several years and assistant professor Jacob Davidsen has been appointed to replace him. In the Faculty of Engineering and Science associate professor Jette Holgaard has also decided to step down and Bettina Dahl Søndergaard has been appointed in her place.

As part of the agreed rotation of position as chairman associate professor Diana Stentoft appointed by the Faculty of Medicine is currently chairing the PBL Academy until 1 January 2016 when the relay will be passed on to the Faculty of Social Science.

Up-coming PBL events

On 28 January 2015 the PBL Academy invites to an open debate about PBL and the development of competencies and how PBL can be a visible strategy throughout entire education programmes. The official invitation will be distributed in December.

The Aalborg Centre for Problem Based Learning in Engineering, Science and Sustainability will be co-organising the 5th International Research Symposium on PBL to be held 6th – 9th July 2015 in San Sebastian, Spain. For more information visit <http://ijclee2015.mondragon.edu/en/authors>

Journal of PBL in Higher Education (JPBLHE)

Less than two years into its existence Journal of PBL in Higher Education has been recognized in the authorised list of publications generating the so called BFI points as an indicator of research.

The next issue of JPBLHE including a special issue on PBL and Creativity is expected before the end of 2014. If you consider submitting a manuscript please find aims, objectives and information for authors on <http://ojs.aub.aau.dk/index.php/pbl>

PBL Academy Strategy

The PBL Academy is as part of the three year strategy for 2013 – 2016 responsible for three development projects each highlighting three areas of immediate relevance to all four faculties when considering PBL.



The first project gathers experiences and perspectives on the issue of flexible learning environments across campus areas and faculties at AAU. Working groups in Aalborg/Esbjerg and Copenhagen are currently gathering information to be presented at a final conference in the spring of 2015. Resources pertaining to both experiences of both physical and virtual learning environments in relation to PBL and project work will further be made available on the PBL Academy website following the conference.

The working group for the second development project on PBL and progression is under construction. This project will in the following months develop materials for inspiration on how PBL can ensure a progressive development of subject as well as interpersonal competencies.

To make our web pages more relevant and intuitive and to ensure that they are aligned to the general AAU design we have worked on a new format which will hopefully make information on PBL at AAU more readily available to staff as well as external partners. See our new homepage [here](#).

Internal ad-hoc activities

The PBL Academy continuously participates in ad hoc activities and meetings at AAU. In August we gave a talk to all the new international students outlining overarching principles of PBL at Aalborg University and inviting them to consider how best to get involved in their studies and project work during their stay here.

In October we were invited to take part in a dialogue meeting with the Minister of Education and Research Sofie Carsten Nielsen. The theme of the meeting was how to support students breaking patterns and for example becoming academics as the first in their families. AAU accepts a record number of students breaking patterns and it is strongly believed that our PBL approach contributes positively to the inclusion of students from different backgrounds.

Contact the PBL Academy

Please contact the PBL Academy steering committee if you have queries or suggestions for activities or events you would like published on the academy web pages.

Contact details:

From Medicine:	Diana Stentoft, chairman, stentoft@hst.aau.dk
From Teknat:	Bettina Dahl Søndergaard, bdahls@plan.aau.dk
From Samf:	Erik Laursen, el@learning.aau.dk
From Hum:	Jacob Davidsen, jackd@hum.aau.dk
Secretary:	Jane Bak Andersen, jba@learning.aau.dk

November 2014