ARMS 2024 CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

Theme: Effective collaboration with external stakeholders

Title: Synergy Unleashed: The Nexus of Australian ITRP Business Minds

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Abstract:

The ARC Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) represents a significant initiative in Australia, fostering collaboration between university researchers, industry partners and Research Professionals, commonly known as Business Managers.

Building upon the success of our Centre of Excellence Chief Operating Officers Network, the primary objective of the Australian Research Council's Industrial Transformation Research Program Business Managers network is to facilitate discussions around 'best practices within Australia.' Over the past seven years, this network has expanded from two managers to a robust community of 80, with ongoing growth. By structuring the network for collaboration and shared ownership, it has successfully facilitated connections between Business Managers and Research Professionals, fostering research collaborations across institutions, states, and even international boundaries.

Within this network, various sub-communities exist based on factors such as grant year, theme, geographic region, and areas of development. These sub-communities empower Business Managers to engage in knowledge-sharing, ultimately implementing best practices within their respective ITRPs and universities.

Furthermore, the diverse expertise within the network provides valuable opportunities for professional development beyond local centres and hubs. Business Managers benefit from mentoring, upskilling in leadership, project management, financial oversight, event coordination, compliance, and effective communication, all while building professional networks.

Co – ownership and enthusiasm of all past and present ITRP Business Managers have been the greatest attributes to the success of this network.