

New approach for innovative campus

THE University of Southern Queensland is offering students innovative programs as part of a new relationship with the Springfield Land Corporation and Mirvac.

The partnership between USQ and Springfield is the first time a university has worked with a developer to provide higher education in a high growth area.

USQ Springfield campus director, Doug Fraser, said this innovative approach had been adopted across the entire campus, from the programs offered, to campus facilities, and the partnerships developed within the community and with local businesses.

"USQ has created new programs which offer something different to those already on the market," he said.

"Our Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) for example, allows students to complete their honours year so when they graduate, they become eligible to apply for registration as a psychologist.

"Other universities require students to re-enrol to complete their honours.

"At the masters level, all our programs are offered in intensive mode, which minimises the impact on students with full time work.

"USQ also offers the ability for students to easily transfer to distance education if they



LEARNING centre . . . The modern look of USQ at Springfield.

need to relocate and cannot complete the program on-campus.

"With a modern mobile workforce, this is a real issue and the USQ solution avoids the problems of having to recommence study in a new institution," Mr Fraser said.

"With the postgraduate intensive mode, the course content is delivered in two or three on-campus sessions per semester, with each session taking two or three days, such as a Friday to Sunday.

"This minimises time away from work and condenses learning but still offers the full semester for completion of assignments.

"Students studying by this mode also get the benefit of receiving the USQ distance materials in the event that for any reason they are unable to attend an intensive session.

"In reality they get the benefits of both worlds, the superior teaching and networking outcomes of face-to-face learning and the flexibility of being able to utilise distance learning if required.

"The campus facilities offer flexibility too, with the entire campus enabled for wireless connectivity, which allows students to connect to the internet from anywhere on the campus at anytime, and

they also have access to 24-hour computer laboratories," he said.

Another feature is that every program offered at USQ Springfield is taught over three semesters so students can fast track their degrees or spread the courses out to allow more time for work and other commitments.

Mr Fraser said students can also start most undergraduate business and all postgraduate programs in any of the semesters, which gives them more freedom to choose when they want to start.

"USQ Springfield will also strive to have students work with local businesses and community organisations, where they can apply their skills to improve processes and find solutions to any issues there may be."

"This benefits the organisations, and also the students as they develop a portfolio and network of people who know their skills by the time they graduate."

USQ Springfield will also share its strengths with the community through a number of events planned throughout the year.

"Being part of such an innovative initiative as Education City, USQ is well placed to be a driving force in the growth of the community," Mr Fraser said.

For more information on USQ Springfield visit www.usq.edu.au/springfield