

# ERGA Seminar Series

The University Of Adelaide

Friday 16th November

2pm-4pm in

Room B17, Ingkarni Wardli Building

University of Adelaide

*Networking and drinks to follow*

**“First Year Coordinator. It's a tough job, but someone has to do it!”**

***Dr Deborah King***      The University of Melbourne

***Dr Adrian Koerber***      The University of Adelaide

In this talk we will give an overview of our project "*Building Leadership Capacity in University First Year Learning and Teaching in the Mathematical Sciences*", funded by the OLT. We will include two short case studies from The University of Melbourne and The University of Adelaide, and outline the aims of the project. This will be followed by a group discussion, where we would welcome contributions from the audience, about their concerns and suggestions about how such a network could support their roles as first year educators.

The lack of quantitative confidence and preparedness among secondary school students is presenting significant challenges to the tertiary sector, particularly for science-based disciplines that rely on quantitative competency. Students entering science programs have weaker foundations in, and stronger negative beliefs toward mathematics, but at the same time advances in science and technology require more complex quantitative knowledge and skills. Undeniably, science curricula must evolve to ensure the preparedness of university graduates. Despite the obvious needs, individuals and institutions are struggling to understand how to achieve this in practice and are faced with increasing challenges in embedding QS in undergraduate science programs.

**“The State of Quantitative skills in undergraduate science education: Findings from an Australian study”**

***Kelly Matthews***      The University of Queensland