Abstract

This thesis examines what is meant by student engagement at a comprehensive Canadian university through a review of the research literature on student engagement and retention and through the application of a critical policy lens to analyze specific initiatives at Simon Fraser University. Given that issues related to work and future careers are the primary reasons for individuals pursuing higher education, the specific focus of this thesis is on how current approaches to career education can and should play a key role in student engagement initiatives. The thesis concludes with a set of recommendations intended to contribute to student engagement at SFU and better prepare students for life after university.

Keywords: career education; student development, student retention; critical policy analysis