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Italian lecture

Youth job issues on the agenda

A BALLARAT lecturer will share her expert knowledge on youth employment at a major conference in Italy next week.

The University of Ballarat's Professor Erica Smith will present a keynote address about an international research program on apprenticeship she has been involved with over the past four years.

She will also be seeking partners for a proposed international project based on research she did in Ballarat high schools last year.

"Apprenticeship is a topic of increasing importance in developing countries as well as the Western world, and the research network, INAP, brings together the leading researchers in the area," she said.

"It is an honour to be asked to speak alongside eminent scholars from leading European and Asian universities.

"Senior officers from the European Union and the International Labour Organisation will also be present."

The Ballarat research was first presented in October at a conference organised under the university's research theme 'Addressing Disadvantage and Inequality in Education and Health'. It will now be taken to the world stage and it is hoped that it will lead to further links with researchers and policy-makers in the area of youth employment and labour law.

"There is quite a big variation among different countries in relation to student-working, and it will be interesting to hear delegates' thoughts on this," Professor Smith said.

"I hope to interest scholars from three or four other countries so that we can compare young people's attitudes in different countries."

The conference, taking place between December 15 and 17, is being held at the University of Bergamo near Milan.

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>
> ERICA SMITH