

Transforming Education for Innovation and Impact: Lessons from Olin College

Olin College of Engineering was founded in 1997 to be a laboratory for reinventing engineering education. Over the past 25+ years, Olin students, faculty, and staff have co-created a unique educational environment focused on preparing students to become exemplary engineering innovators who recognize needs, design solutions, and engage in creative enterprises for the good of the world. In this talk, I will highlight some key features of Olin's educational approaches, share some examples from our curriculum that illustrate these approaches, and attempt to summarize what I've learned from working with partners around the world to adapt these approaches to a wide range of settings. I will try to leave plenty of time for an open discussion about the higher education landscape in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area, with a particular focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.



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10:30AM – 11:30AM



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Speaker

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Jason Woodard is a Professor of Engineering and Entrepreneurship at Olin College in Massachusetts, where he served as Olin's first Dean of External Programs and Partnerships. In this role, he was responsible for developing new academic partnerships, supporting industry collaborations, and expanding experiential learning opportunities. He has contributed to Olin's first-year curriculum and senior capstone programs, led faculty development workshops for educators around the world, and published research on a range of topics including digital strategy, open innovation, and educational technology. Prior to Olin, he spent a decade on the faculty of the School of Information Systems at Singapore Management University and worked for IBM in technical and marketing roles. He received an A.B. from Princeton University in Information Technology and Society and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in Information, Technology and Management. Jason and his family are currently based in Shenzhen, where he is serving as a Visiting Professor at Shenzhen InnoX Academy, an incubator focused on smart hardware startups.

