



Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. It's been a busy few months for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network as we investigate the options for continuing our important work when the project ends in November.



Our attention now turns to embedding our activities with partner institutions, which is by no means a straight forward task with such a short timescale. We're also creating the final summary report for our Strategic Board and funders HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England).

More results are coming in from our cross curriculum projects too. For example, courses in the new media software 'Pro Tools' were organised by the Creative Industries Curriculum Group and quickly became oversubscribed. Feedback has been really positive and more courses are in the pipeline to meet demand. Basingstoke College of Technology (BCoT) has mapped the Access Diploma - recognised and accepted by most universities - against apprenticeships at Level 3, which will allow apprentices to include their work as APL (Accreditation of Prior Learning) against the Access Diploma. BCoT has also created a short course that apprentices can do in their spare time that will enable them to get the rest of the skills needed for the Access Diploma. What this means is that for just a bit of extra work apprentices can get two qualifications; their apprenticeship and the Access Diploma. We have high hopes that this will help more apprentices to progress to higher education and achieve their full potential.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of our newsletter. For further information about any of the topics please visit our website at www.hi-lln.co.uk

Jon Bramley
Project Director

Multimedia project dissemination packs online

As part of our commitment to creating opportunities for potential learners, we have funded a number of cross curriculum projects that have been run by our partner universities and colleges.

We would encourage all our partners to take a look at the results of these projects, which are being hosted on our website. We're creating multimedia dissemination packs for each one to make things easier for organisations intending to run similar projects. The projects page can be found at www.hi-lln.co.uk/projects/projects.aspx.

VQ Day and Stakeholders Conference

This year's third and final Stakeholders Conference was a great success, attracting education professionals from across the region. Highlights included Dr. Geoff Haywood's presentation on progressing to HE through vocational pathways and Prof. John Konrad's talk about Recognition of Prior Learning.



It was a good day for Mike Burns, Project Leader for the Construction Curriculum Group, who scooped a prize for his poster about the 'Hard to Reach Learners in Construction' project. The poster competition was a chance for project leaders to promote their activities and achievements. Mike's poster was singled out for giving a clear and concise presentation of his project's success in raising aspiration among construction workers and providing them with information, advice and guidance.

The day also coincided with national VQ Day - launched last year to recognise vocational achievements - so we used this opportunity to highlight local successes by holding our own small awards presentation. Four students were selected as worthy winners of our regional VQ Day award (*from left to right*):

- Tracy Audin, who is just finishing her final year studying BA (Hons) Business and Management at Portsmouth University
- Mary-Grace Rae, who is studying a BTEC National Diploma in Business at Fareham College
- Steve Middleton, who is studying BA (Hons) Popular Music & Record Production at Southampton Solent University (*unfortunately Steve couldn't be there to collect his award*)
- Caroline Priston, who has just completed the FDA Early Years Care & Education at St Vincent College



Tracy Audin



Mary-Grace Rae



Caroline Priston

Key Achievements

On this page we're highlighting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Lifelong Learning Network's main activities and achievements since the project was launched three years ago.

Progression

- 3500+ Progression Agreements now available in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight
- Our Progression Agreements include routes to and from NVQ levels, outlining the criteria required to progress - in the absence of any current UCAS tariff points
- Progression Agreements also exist from BTECs, City & Guilds, CACHE Diplomas, HNCs and HNDs to Foundation, Honours and Masters degrees and HNDs
- Learning Opportunities in the South East website launched with all HI-LLN Progression Agreements available via online search facility

Communications

- HI-LLN website redesigned and re-launched with 100% increase in traffic
- Career Guides created for potential learners in Early Years Education, Childcare & Playwork; Construction; Creative Industries; Business & Management; Travel & Tourism; Hair & Beauty and Retail & Logistics
- 10,000 'Are you ready for HE?' leaflets and 600 posters - aimed at raising awareness of HE - distributed around the region
- Successful sponsorship of Unity 101 radio station's 2009 awards ceremony
- An annual Information, Advice and Guidance event and Stakeholders Conference have been held each year of the HI-LLN project, with each event attracting education and IAG professionals from across the region

Partnership

All 21 colleges and 5 universities in the region are partners in the HI-LLN, as well as the local authorities, some local employers and training providers.

We would like to thank the following organisations for their active support at Curriculum Group meetings:
Totton College, Fareham College, Peter Symonds College, Brockenhurst College and Hampshire County Council.

Curriculum Development

- The total funding for all cross curriculum projects comes to nearly £300,000
- FdA Management: Hair, Beauty and Spa Foundation Degree - created at the University of Winchester and validated on 5th May 2009
- 42% of the construction workers that sought follow-up details after receiving Information, Advice and Guidance are now enrolled on a vocational course ('Hard to Reach Learners in Construction' project led by Eastleigh College)
- We've developed a fast track system for PTLLS (Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector) for trainers. As a result we're now a case study for Lifelong Learning UK
- Our other projects are 'Developing SME Trainers and their Training Provision', 'HE for the Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce', 'Developing HE Study Skills: Self Study Workbooks for Practitioners in Early Years, Health and Social Care', 'Progression in Primary Care Management', 'Offenders into HE', 'The Development and Implementation of a Pilot Business Educational Framework for Public Service Sector Organisations' and 'Developing Radio'

Apprenticeship Projects

- 'Apprenticeship Route to Higher Education: Vocational Engineering' project - developed a pilot fast track Access to Higher Education Diploma and validated on 17th June 2009
- 'Mind the Gap: Developing Apprenticeship Progression Routes to Higher Education' - aims to develop a viable succession route from Advanced to Higher Apprenticeships, pilot a bridging course delivered in a variety of modes and produce validation documentation for a Foundation Degree as an integral part of a Higher Apprentice Framework
- 'Finding their Way? Advanced Apprenticeship as a route to HE' - aims to track L3 apprentices and discover what barriers exist that prevent progression

Core Team

Jon Bramley	Project Director	jon.bramley@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9642
Jan Wise	Credit and Progression Manager	jan.wise@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9514
Mary Stone	Communications Officer	mary.stone@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9928
Pam Virdee	Project Administrator	pam.virdee@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9161

Curriculum Group Co-ordinators

Pauline Rachman	Retail & Commercial Enterprises	pauline.rachman@bcot.ac.uk	01256 306441
Mike Ridout	Business & Management	mike.ridout@sparsholt.ac.uk	01962 797275
Louise Bates	Creative Industries	louise.bates@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9063
Nicola King	Creative Industries	nicola.king@solent.ac.uk	023 8031 9063
Mike Burns	Construction	mburnsp2s@eastleigh.ac.uk	
Gail Marshall	Construction	gmarshall@eastleigh.ac.uk	023 8091 1212
Helen Briers	Childhood, Youth & Community Studies	helen.briers@winchester.ac.uk	01962 827694
Rae Granville	Engineering	Rachel.Granville@port.ac.uk	023 9284 2007
Julie Wintrup	Health & Social Care	j.wintrup@soton.ac.uk	023 8059 8834