



E-bulletin No 1, February 2007

This is the first of a monthly 'e-bulletin service' offered to policy makers, researchers, practitioners and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. This new service is supported by The Forum for Access and Continuing Education (FACE) and aims to bring vital and interesting information to both FACE members and non-members alike.

The e-bulletin will be sent to you each month. If you would prefer not to receive this message please contact me at Carmel.Dennison@ntlworld.com and your details will be removed immediately. If you have any comments about what might be added to this new service to make it more useful, or if you would like me to add a colleague to the list, please let me know.

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FACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2007

Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/conferences.htm> to see information about FACE's annual conference called 'Social Justice and Lifelong Learning: diversity, globalisation and transformation' to be held on 2 to 4 July 2007. The keynote speakers include: Bill Rammell, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, UK; Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive, Equality Challenge Unit, UK; and Alan Tuckett, Director of NIACE, UK.

FACE ONE-DAY SEMINARS

Throughout the year a number of FACE one-day seminars will be held within England, Wales and Scotland. These will focus on major themes and concerns within the sector. One is being planned for London in the coming months on the subject of 'Ethnicity, Education and Employment'. Another is planned (to be held in the Midlands) on 'The Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review (IQER)' which is a review method specially devised for higher education in further education colleges in England. More information on these and other FACE seminars will be shown on future e-bulletin messages.

PROMOTE YOUR CONFERENCE ON THE FACE WEBSITE

In a spirit of mutual support and as a service to FACE members, our website also gives notice of seminars and conferences that might be of interest to FACE members that are being held by other organisations. Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/seminars.htm#otherevents> to see what's on, and let us know any event you would like to be added to the list.

Staffordshire University is hosting an event on 14th March called 'Making Widening Participation Relevant in the 21st Century: Economic and Social Regeneration through Education'. For more information go to: <http://www.staffs.ac.uk/uniservices/cpd/>

NETWORKING WITHIN THE SECTOR

FACE members can make and join networks of researchers and practitioners around the UK and internationally with those of similar experience, expertise and research interests. Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/networking.htm> If you would like to add your details, please e-mail FACE webmaster Jim Tate on: James.Tate@uwe.ac.uk

FACE BOOK REVIEWS

The FACE website now includes a page on book reviews relevant to the sector.

Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/reviews.htm> In addition to reviews by the FACE executive and experts in the field, we invite FACE members to submit reviews about relevant books/reports that they recommend to colleagues within the sector. Please send your reviews to me at carmel.dennison@ntlworld.com (no more than 1000 words) and I will forward them to the webmaster.

WHAT'S IN THE NATIONAL NEWS THIS MONTH

Poor students 'lose out in complex system of university bursaries'

Poorer students are paying almost no attention to generous financial support packages offered by universities, a report into the effect of the introduction of variable tuition fees has shown. Institutions offering relatively valuable bursaries to students from less well-off parents have not enjoyed a corresponding increase in applications, while some of those offering the most generous financial support saw substantial falls between 2005-06 when £3,000 a year fees were introduced. The report, written by Nigel Brown Associates for Universities UK, found that the introduction of variable fees created a boom in scholarships and bursaries. *The Financial Times, The Guardian, The Times 14/2/07*

Minister urges universities to woo part-time students

The Government has appealed to universities to make a culture shift and embrace more courses led and funded by employers. Changes to the traditional academic year, the kind of students enrolled, the curriculum and where courses are taught would all have to be considered, Higher Education Minister Bill Rammell told a Guardian conference of higher education leaders in London recently. Working people who study part time "from the factory floor, open-plan offices and the front seat of white vans", rather than the traditional 18 to 21-age-group going to "leafy campuses", should be the engine for continuing expansion, said Mr Rammell. *The Guardian 2/2/07*

Bill Rammell MP will be one of the keynote speakers at the FACE 2007 Conference.

Shunning university 'damages men's job prospects'

Men face a struggle for good jobs in future as growing numbers of teenage boys shun university, government officials warned today. Ministers are becoming increasingly concerned at the widening gender gap in higher education, after 22,500 more young women than men won university places last year. Higher education officials warned that men could find themselves marginalised in the jobs market as employers increasingly look to hire staff with degrees.