



This is the June FACE (Forum for Access and Continuing Education) e-bulletin, offered to policy-makers, researchers, practitioners and others with an interest in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. This message is sent to those in the sector, members and non-members alike.

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

In this month's bulletin:

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- **FACE ANNUAL CONFERENCE 'Social Justice and Lifelong Learning: diversity, globalisation, transformation', 2-4 July 2007, hosted by the University of East London.**

This is THE major annual conference for the sector working in access, widening participation and lifelong learning. A small number of places still available but you will need to book within the next few days. Contact Tony Hudson on [A.Hudson@uel.ac.uk](mailto:A.Hudson@uel.ac.uk)

For details of the conference go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/conference2007.htm>

- **FACE SEMINARS AROUND THE UK**

**Responding to Leitch: implications for adult learners and community regeneration.** This seminar will focus on responses to the Leitch Report: how it will affect learners and communities within Wales and in the UK in general. Tuesday, 11th September.

Keynote speaker: Rob Humphreys, Director for Wales, Open University in Wales. Hosted by Professor Danny Saunders and his team, University of Glamorgan, Wales.

**First Generation Students into Higher Education.** This seminar will be held in central London on Tuesday 23 October and focuses on research into the experiences of non-traditional students in higher education and support systems to aid their success. Keynote speaker: Professor Mary Stuart, Kingston University. Other speakers: Paula Hixenbaugh, Westminster University, co-author of *Personal Tutoring in Higher Education*, and Margo Blythman, University of the Arts, London.

- **The Practice of Academic Writing:** an overview of writing for publication in academic journals, books and also for funding bids. Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November, Staffordshire University. Keynote speaker: Professor Miriam Zukas, University of Leeds, editor of the journal *Studies in the Education of Adults*. Other speakers and workshop leaders include Dr Gillian Klein of Trentham Books, Professor David Jary, editor of the journal *Widening Participation and Lifelong Learning*, and a speaker from a funding agency.

Seminars in Scotland details available shortly.  
Contact [Carmel.Dennison@ntlworld.com](mailto:Carmel.Dennison@ntlworld.com) for more details.

- **FACE NETWORKING WITHIN THE SECTOR**

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

- **OTHER NEWS**

The appointment of a Chief Executive at the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

The SCQF was created by bringing together all Scottish mainstream qualifications into a single unified framework, making the overall system of qualifications and relevant programmes of learning easier to understand. When Aileen Ponton steps into the new post on 9 July 2007 she will focus on embedding the Framework across Scotland, developing the Framework by extending its recognition of prior informal learning, and developing linkages with other such frameworks internationally.

For more information, contact: Andrea Conway, Halogen Communications  
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### **Higher Education Academy**

#### **Widening Participation Research Service (WPRS)**

This service offers support to all staff in higher education with a widening participation remit. It provides access to research information, services and resources thereby supporting the embedding of diversity and widening participation across the student life cycle. Go to: <http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/wprs.htm>

- **WHAT'S IN THE NEWSPAPERS**

#### **Half school 'failures' are white working-class boys, says report**

June 22, 2007, James Meikle, *The Guardian*

The persistently poor educational achievement of white working-class British boys was highlighted in a report released last night that reveals that these pupils accounted for almost half of those leaving school with low qualifications or no exam successes at all. <http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,2108862,00.html>

#### **Aim, shoot ... miss again**

June 12, 2007, Jessica Shepherd, *The Guardian*

Is there anyone in state education who has not been involved in attempts to persuade the poorest young people to go to university? Primary and secondary schools, further education colleges, universities, their students and education charities have all been doing their bit. The government pledged £430m on "widening participation" in higher education for 2006-07. This goes up to £436m for 2007-08. The government says we need to attract students from a broader cross-section of society for "social justice and economic competitiveness".

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2100236,00.html>

### **Cash for poor students may be switched**

May 29, 2007, James Meikle, *The Guardian*

Universities may cut hundreds of pounds from financial incentives intended to attract more students from poorer backgrounds, and spend the money on summer schools for teenagers instead.

Nearly all universities offer substantial bursaries to poorer students, on average £1,000 a year. But Sir Martin Harris, the government's regulator for ensuring "fair access" to universities, has proposed that the money might be better spent encouraging pre-GCSE pupils to aim for university.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,,2090051,00.html>

### **Blame where it's due**

Letters to the editor, June 19, 2007, *The Guardian*

Don't blame Aimhigher for the lack of participation by working-class students in higher education (Aim, shoot ... miss again, June 12). Over the past few years at our rural Lincolnshire secondary modern, pupils as young as 13 have experienced London theatre visits, workshops at universities, summer schools, peer mentoring and revision workshops - all provided thanks to Aimhigher. Our participation rates in further and higher education have soared.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2105615,00.html>

### **Learn some lessons from America's mistakes**

18 June 2007, Sarah Churchwell, *The Independent*

Student debt in Britain has just passed £3bn; if, as seems likely, the caps on top-up fees are lifted, this number could rise. In other words, higher education in the UK is starting to look remarkably similar to higher education in the US. Yet Britain seems oblivious to a cautionary tale that is emerging across the ocean and might well have implications for student lending here.

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/commentators/article2669861.ece>

### **Why industry is being rebuffed**

24 May 2007, *The Independent*

Universities are being urged to offer vocational courses with employers as a way of improving the skills of the workforce and, coincidentally, expanding higher education. The Government believes that this would make higher education less of an ivory tower, and bring money into the sector by making companies contribute to the cost. Most universities have expressed little interest in the idea. Now, Bahram Bekhradnia, in a Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) report, explains why universities are right to be cautious about jumping into bed with industry.

<http://education.independent.co.uk/higher/article2574697.ece>

## **MEMBERSHIP OF FACE**

Go to: <http://www.f-a-c-e.org.uk/members.htm#institutional> to see the benefits of membership.