



Newsletter Issue 3

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third issue of our newsletter, offering a brief overview of current activities of NWUA.

The North West Higher Level Partnership: The updated version of the **discover HE database** developed as part of the NW Higher Level Skills Partnership project was launched during September. The **discover HE** database has been designed to allow more effective cross working with employers and to create an effective resource for skills brokers and other intermediaries to have access to the range of HE provision offered in the North West. It offers a starting point to explore provision for industry sectors from various providers in one single place and can direct users to individual institutional websites. Over 8,000 courses from 15 Higher Education Institutions and 29 Further Education Colleges have been added to the database. Please follow the link to view the **discover HE** database <http://www.nwua.ac.uk/discoverHE>, which includes full information on the types of searches that are possible.

The North West Higher Level Partnership Event: NWUA is holding a conference on October 23rd in Manchester which aims to inform partners of the priorities for the new sectors of Biomedical, Food and Drink and Energy and Environmental Technologies, and to highlight the developments within the HLSP programme. Further information is available from Virginia Mitchell (vmitchell@nwua.ac.uk).

Energy and Environmental Technologies. NWUA presented to the Skills Special Interest Group of the UK Forum for Environmental Industries at Aston on 10th September. The audience included representatives from DBERR and DIUS as well as Knowledge Transfer Network and the Environmental Research Funders Forum. The group were interested in the work of the Higher Level Skills Partnership to date and the future focus for the sector in the North West. NWUA has also worked with Envirolink Northwest to develop the Environmental Research Group's database, which has been launched recently. It is hoped that the database will grow and become a useful resource to stimulate collaboration between environmental businesses and universities. Further information can be found at www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk/ERG

Food & Drink R&D Events/Framework 7 Event: The first of a series of Food & Drink related R&D events will take place on the 21st October 2008 at Lancaster Environment Centre. The event will be delivered in partnership with FrameworksNW, Food NW and Envirolink Northwest and will explore opportunities arising from the current Framework 7 call for projects in the Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology sectors and the Energy and Environment Sector. The event is aimed at both HEIs and interested businesses.

Three more Food & Drink specific events are planned for November. Further information is available from Rebecca Ward (rward@nwua.ac.uk)

Single Regional Strategy (RIS). The RIS will be a major area of activity over the next twelve months and NWUA organised an HE consultation event, chaired by Professor John Brooks, on Friday 3rd October 2008, to facilitate universities' collective engagement with the RIS and input into the RIS evidence papers. The event was attended by representative from all NWUA Member institutions. A second event, involving wider regional partners, will be held during November 2008.

Labour Party Conference: NWUA exhibited at the Labour Party Conference held at Manchester Central from the 20-24th September 2008 raising the profile of regional HEIs and the economic and social and cultural contribution that they make to the region both as major businesses and employers. NWUA staff distributed information on Higher Level Skills, the Impact of the NW Objective 2 Knowledge Based Action Plan and Facts and Figures on HE in the region to delegates. A number of senior figures visited the stand including Ivan Lewis, Beverley Hughes, David Lammy, Geoff Hoon and Andy Burnham.

Conservative Party Conference: The Executive Director attended a fringe meeting on higher education at the Conservative Party Conference. The main speakers were Rob Wilson, Shadow Higher Education Minister and Malcolm McVicar, Vice-Chancellor of UCLAN, who were joint sponsors of the event. The event proved a useful opportunity to speak with the Shadow Minister and to make contact with the Policy Exchange Senior Advisor on Universities.

NWDA Annual Conference and AGM: NWUA attended and exhibited at the NWDA AGM held on the 26th September 2008 at the BT Convention Centre, Liverpool. With over 800 people attending the event provided an excellent opportunity to distribute information highlighting the impact of the HEIs in the region and their impact on the region's economy.

We hope the information this newsletter is of interest. You are welcome to forward this newsletter to anyone you feel would be interested in it. Please contact us if you would like any further information about the projects mentioned above.

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, please email us and we will remove your name from the address list.

Kind regards

The NWUA Secretariat
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