

Working Higher

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Working Higher

- HEFCE Funding of £2.9m
- Piloting “sector bespoke” foundation degrees.
 - Refining/Petrochemicals
 - Nuclear
 - Chemical
 - Polymer
 - Bioscience/Pharmaceutical
- Foundation degree framework for each sector will be made available to all HEIs.

Consortium Members

- University of Hull (Lead HEI)
- Cogent Sector Skills Council
- HEA Physical Sciences Centre
- Foundation Degree Forward
- SEMTA Sector Skills Council
- Five HEIs (one per sector)
- Five Industry Champions (one per sector)

Sector HEIs

- Refining/Petrochemicals
 - University of Hull
- Nuclear
 - Central Lancashire
- Chemical
 - Manchester Metropolitan University
- Polymers
 - London Metropolitan University
- Biosciences/Pharmaceutical
 - University of Kent

Overview

- Address blockages supply versus need
- Engage with employers – Industry Champions
- Minimise risks for the various stakeholders
- Project will develop set of generic modules
- Supplement with sector specific modules
- Consortium develops generic modules jointly
- Sector HEI develops the specific modules

Gareth James

- Industry champion Refining/Petrochemicals – Jan 2010
- Director Process Industry Consulting Ltd
- Chartered Chemical Engineer with MBA
- 31 years multinational experience with BP
- Managed 2 top tier COMAH petrochemical sites
- Developed BP Operating Management System
- Developed BP operating and process safety training
- Formed UK Chemicals Industry Skills Network Group - 2003
- Formed Cogent Chemicals Advisory Council - 2005
- Chairman Humber Chemical Focus – 2005/7
- Director Cogent SSC – 2006/9

Employers Needs

- Employers value degree level qualifications – proxy for skills that employees will bring to the enterprise
- Employers value broad employability skills – communication, motivation, independence, analysis, confidence and problem solving
- Refining and Petrochemical industries are based on effective risk management which demands sound understanding of scientific and engineering principles
- STEM based foundation degrees could address these needs

What is the role for HE in educating the current workforce?

- Global competitiveness requires an additional 1 to 2 million of the existing UK work force to be qualified to level 4 by 2020.
- Massive opportunity but HE must become better connected to employers
 - 75% of employers think academics do not understand business needs
 - ❖ 52% of firms 5000+ staff engage with HE
 - ❖ But only 15% of firms less than 50 staff engage with HE
 - Total employer training £33.6 billion
 - Of this £5 billion could have been provided by HE
 - HE actually earned £335 million (<5%)

Source Higher Education at Work – High Skills : High Value DIUS 2008

Key Success Factors My Initial Thoughts

- Cultural & behavioural change required by HE and Industry
- Create valued supplier/customer relationships
- Clear demonstration of value to all parties
- Innovative use of regional and/or sector clusters
- Short courses with bite size credit accumulation
- Modular, flexible and blended learning
- Accreditation of employer led programmes
- Employers to participate in design and delivery
- Secondments between industry and HE
- Financial and other incentives to encourage all parties