Contractor Led Learning: Constructionarium

David Richardson
University of Leeds

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

What is it?

- Site based, 10 credit, Level 3 field course
- 54 students in 3 groups of 18
- Undertaken at CITB HQ in Bircham Newton, Norfolk
- Construct 3 scaled down versions of iconic civil engineering projects in 5 days:
- Undertaken with partnering contractor
- 60% site assessed, 40% report/presentation assessed

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Skills Outcomes

- Leadership
- Planning and organisation
- Self awareness
- Team working
- Time management
- Use of knowledge
- Health & Safety

Other Advantages

- Employment opportunities
  - Permanent
  - Internships
- University profile
- Inspirational – “Weeklong Constructionarium course was highlight of programme”
- Partnerships
- Student belonging
- Contributes to future learning

Contractor Involvement

- Bring logistics and site know-how
- Involvement of experienced site staff, materials,
- Act as “Client”, negotiating contracts and variations
- Visit students prior to the event
- Fund materials, plant & equipment

Contractor Benefits

- Recruitment pipeline
- Staff development
- Strengthens brand
- Gives something back to academia
- Academic links
- Corporate Social Responsibility

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University Benefits

- Innovative education
- Integrated into degree
- High profile, popular with industry
- Student satisfaction: “highlight of degree”
- Staff experience
- Industry support for curriculum change
- Evaluations positive from staff and students

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Tammie

- Improved confidence
- Helped set me up for my year in industry
- Improved team-building attributes
- Helped me gain a better appreciation of real-life construction issues
- Keeping cool under pressure
- Multi-tasking
- Man management

Now working for Mott MacDonald

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Steve

- Set me up for a 1 year industrial placement in the bridges section of Mott McDonald
- Helped me in my interview for industrial placement
- Helped me gain confidence
- Great motivation
- Gave me an insight into construction practice that has assisted in my studies after returning to university this year

Now working for the EA

School of Civil Engineering

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Bentley

- Used for staff CPD
- Recruitment tool
  - Approx. 2 students per year recruited via relationships built at constructionarium
- Staff motivation/team building
- CSR – Has positive spin offs in relation to winning work
- Marketing tool

Other examples of industry involvement in modules at the UoL

- Level 1 – Industrial Mentoring Scheme
- Level 2 – IDP Scheme Design Reviews
- Level 3 – Constructionarium
- Level 4 – IDP co-delivered with WSP

Questions