DRAFT AGENDA (subject to change)

09:00 **Registration and refreshments**

Session One: Strategies to improve student retention in light of an economic downturn

09:50 **Welcome and introduction from conference chair**
Fran Hulbert, Policy Advisor; Former Director, Skills Policy Group, Northwest Regional Development Agency and RDA Lead on Skills

10:00 **Recession and the student – how will recession hit students and what should higher education institutions be doing to support those in financial need?**
Professor Nicholas Barr, Professor of Public Economics, London School of Economics

10:20 **improving the quality of the first year student experience – managing expectations and key indicators for improving student retention**
Paul Marshall, Executive Director, 1994 Group

10:40 **Student retention in light of the government's widening participation agenda**
Professor Liz Thomas, Senior Advisor for Widening Participation, Higher Education Academy (HEA); Lead Advisor Working with Institutions, Action on Access; Director of Widening Participation Research Centre, Edge Hill University

11:00 **Keynote Address**
Please check website for details

11:20 Questions and discussion

11:30 **Refreshments**

12:00 **Session Two: Seminars**

Delegates should choose to attend one seminar from the list below. Seminars are designed to be interactive and participatory in nature. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are subject to maximum capacities.

A1 **Risks of diversity in student retention – developing strategies to reach a wider range of students whilst ensuring responsible recruitment**
Professor Rhiannon Evans, Director, Action on Access (AoA)

A2 **Information, advice, guidance and student support: the role of student services in supporting retention**
David Dickinson, Head of Student Care Services, University of Surrey and Vice Chair, Amosshe

Continues overleaf…

A3 **Case Study: University College London Transition Programme**
Socio-economic factors - their interaction with retention and the student experience
Dr Marco Angelini, Project Officer, Transition Programme, Widening Participation Unit, University College London

A4 **The role of pre-entry guidance**
Jane Artess, Research Director, Higher Education Career Services Unit (HECSU)

13:00 **Networking Lunch**

14:00 **Session Three: Panel Debate**
Strategies to identify issues in student retention through early warning signs and solutions

Panellists to include:

- **Aaron Porter**, Vice President Higher Education, National Union of Students (NUS)
- **Alice Hynes**, Chief Executive Officer, Guild HE
- **Becki Martin**, Business Development Manager, Youth at Risk UK
- **Professor Rhiannon Evans**, Director, Action on Access (AoA)

15:00 **Refreshments**

15:30 **Session Four: Seminars**

Delegates should choose to attend one seminar from the list below. Seminars are designed to be interactive and participatory in nature. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis and are subject to maximum capacities.

B1 **Techniques for keeping students in higher education – a case study**
Becki Martin, Business Development Manager, Youth at Risk UK

B2 **Staying the course: part-time student support and retention**
Monica Law, Head of Marketing and Recruitment, Birkbeck University of London

B3 **Improving the academic and social engagement of students to improve retention and success**
Becka Currant, Head of Learner Development and Student Engagement, University of Bradford

B4 **Enhancing financial support for students**

16:30 **Close of conference**