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2nd Annual Conference

Higher Education and School Partnerships

Widening Participation - Making the funding work

Delegate Guide

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The Guardian 3rd Annual
Further Education Leadership Summit 2009
Leadership, Partnerships and Delivery in a Downturn

Pre-summit dinner debate Tuesday 16th June 2009
Leaders' summit Wednesday 17th June 2009
Hilton London Metropole, London W2

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Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills

Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP
Former Secretary of State for Education and Skills

David Willetts MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills

John McNamara
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Rt Hon Charles Clarke MP
Former Secretary of State for Education and Skills

Other speakers include:
John Holmes
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Hull Forward

Carol Mills
Human Resources Director,
Lancashire County Council

Pip Gilroy
Policy Manager, **UCAS**

Professor Stuart Billingham
Pro-Vice Chancellor,
York St John University

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.Foreword

Dear delegate,

I would like to welcome you to the Higher Education and School Partnerships Conference.

Higher education has established strong and enduring partnerships with schools and colleges over many years, playing a central role in the drive to widen participation in the sector. However, it still remains the case that you're much more likely to get a degree if you are from a higher socio-economic group.

The focus of discussion today will be on narrowing the participation gap and how higher education can become more ambitious with what it is already doing to make partnerships a success, in turn inspiring more young people to apply to university.

Today's conference brings together a wide range of representatives from across the education sector concerned with widening participation to explore those opportunities created by formal collaboration. I am delighted to welcome a high calibre line-up of speakers today including:

- Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Lammy as Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)
- Professor Malcolm Gillies, Vice- Chncellor, City University London
- Felicity Martin, Headteacher, Eggars School
- Tricia Jenkins MBE, Head of Educational Opportunities, University of Liverpool
- Professor Alasdair Smith, Consultant, Office of the Schools Commissioner, Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)
- Paul Clark, Director, Policy Development Group, Universities UK

I hope you enjoy the conference. I am looking forward to hearing the discussion.

Katherine MacGregor
Account Manager – Education and Skills
Neil Stewart Associates

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Agenda

(Subject to change)

09:15 **Registration, refreshments and exhibition**

Session One: Overcoming barriers to widening participation

09:50 **Welcome from conference chair**
Mike Baker, Broadcaster and Journalist

10:00 **The role of partnerships in widening participation and increasing social mobility**
Professor Alasdair Smith, Consultant, Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)

10:20 **Committing to partnerships between schools and HE**
Paul Clark, Director of Policy, Universities UK

10:40 **Progress and participation – delivering effective partnerships**
Paul Marshall, Executive Director, 1994 Group

11:00 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP, Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Lammy as Minister of State, Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)

11:20 **Questions and Discussion**

11:30 **Refreshments, networking and exhibition**

Session Two: Engaging with schools

12:00 **Working with specialist schools and academies**
Jennifer Jupe, Strategic Director, Specialism and Curriculum Networks,
Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT)

12:20 **How young should HEIs engage?**
Case study on primary intervention
Tricia Jenkins MBE, Head of Educational Opportunities, Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Liverpool

12:40 **New Opportunities to engage with schools**
Phillip Harley, Schools and 14-19 Adviser, Action on Access

12:55 **Questions and Discussion**

13:00 **Buffet Lunch, networking and exhibition**

Session Three: Panel discussion

14:00 **Planting the seed: Creating a successful partnership, what results do we want?**

Professor Malcolm Gillies, Vice-Chancellor, City University London
Jo Wiggans, Director, AimHigher Greater Manchester
Felicity Martin, Headteacher, Eggars School, Alton
Professor Sa'ad Medhat, Chief Executive, New Engineering Foundation

15:00 **Refreshments, networking and exhibition**

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Session Four: Best Practice Seminars (15:30 - 16.30)

Delegates should choose to attend one seminar from the list of five 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.

1. **Building a successful partnership**
Tom Wilks, Schools Liaison Officer, Clare College, University of Cambridge
Alan Watts, Aimhigher Coordinator, Aimhigher Tower Hamlets
EDINBURGH ONE

2. **Strategic assessments - approaches and opportunities**
Professor Rhiannon Evans MBE, Director, Action on Access
EDINBURGH TWO

3. **STEM skills - How partnerships can develop these vital skills**
Professor Sa'ad Medhat, Chief Executive, New Engineering Foundation
YORK SUITE

4. **Plugging the IAG gap**
Jo Wiggans, Director, AimHigher Greater Manchester
Dr Felicity Dunworth, Director, Aimhigher Kent and Medway
LINCOLN SUITE

5. **What schools want of HEIs and what HEIs want of schools: where is the common ground?**
Eamon Martin, Director Education Partnerships, City University London
John Hall, Adviser to London Higher on School-HE Relationships
CANTERBURRY SUITE

16:30 **Close of conference**

ATTENDEE NAME	POSITION	ORGANISATION
Mr Matthew Jones	Widening Access, School Intervention Officer	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC)
Ms Liz McNeil	Widening Participation Manager	University of York
Miss Imogen Collins	Creative Outreach Facilitator	Writtle College
Mr Mike Baker	Broadcaster and Journalist	

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Speaker Biographies

(Biographies are shown in alphabetical order by surname)

Mike Baker
Broadcaster Journalist

An award-winning journalist and broadcaster, Mike is a columnist for BBC News Online and the Guardian. He presents several series on Teachers' TV and is regularly heard on BBC Radio. His blog is at: http://www.mikebakereducation.co.uk.

Mike spent 18 years as the BBC's Education Correspondent, covering all the big national stories for TV and radio. His previous BBC roles included: Political Correspondent, Foreign Correspondent and Deputy Home News Editor.

He was a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Education, held fellowships at Oxford and Michigan universities, and has published several books on education politics. He was Education Journalist of the Year (2008 and 2002) and won the Ted Wragg Lifetime Award (2006). He is on the Nuffield Trust Education Advisory Committee, is an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Teachers, and a Trustee of the National Education Trust.

Mike provides consultancy/media training to the education sector. He was educated at state schools and Cambridge University and took his MA at Kingston University.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary to David Lammy as Minister of State
DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS (DIUS)

Dr Blackman-Woods was born and brought up in Belfast and studied at the University of Ulster, gaining a BSc and a PhD in Social Sciences.

Dr Blackman-Woods started her working life as a Welfare Rights Officer for Newcastle City Council. She later became a Lecturer at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and Councillor for the Sandyford Ward in Newcastle. She also spent a period of time as Dean of Social and Labour studies at Ruskin College, Oxford before moving on to be Head of policy at the Local Government Information Unit.

She also has extensive voluntary sector experience, including helping to set up Women's Aid (NI) and working in a consultancy capacity for Save the Children, the Child Poverty Action Group and the Housing Association movement.

Her most recent post before becoming an MP was as Professor of Social Policy at Northumbria University. Dr Blackman-Woods' expertise is in policy, decision-making and the legislative process. She is a specialist in education, housing and regeneration and is passionate about improving educational opportunities for young people and raising standards for all.

Since becoming an MP she has been very active in the House and in her constituency by taking an interest in a diverse range of issues such as education, climate change, affordable housing, buses, childcare and international development.

Roberta has previously served on the Education and Skills Select Committee and the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee and the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.

She served as Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Rt Hon Hilary Armstrong MP as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Social Exclusion (May 2006 to Jun 2007) and PPS to the Rt Hon Des Browne MP, Secretary of State for Defence (July 2007 to October 2008). She is currently a PPS in the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Recently the Prime Minister appointed Roberta as Assistant Regional Minister and will be working with the Rt Hon Nick Brown MP to promote the North East in Westminster and around the country.

Paul Clark
Director of Policy
UNIVERSITIES UK

Paul Clark is Director of Policy at Universities UK. Prior to that, he worked in a number of institutions in the higher education sector, most recently holding a senior administrative position at the University of Oxford. Paul was educated at the University of Oxford, and holds an MBA in Higher Education Management. He has also worked in local politics and not-for-profit roles, including as Governor of his local school.

Dr Felicity Dunworth
Director
AIMHIGHER KENT AND MEDWAY

Felicity has been Director of the Aimhigher Kent and Medway partnership since 2003. Aimhigher partnerships seek to widen participation in higher education through working with young people who have the ability to continue their studies but who are unlikely to do so without extra support. Their aim is to raise awareness, aspiration and attainment among such young people through a partnership approach that brings schools, FECs and HEIs and partner organisations such as Connexions together.

Prior to this, Felicity worked on a range of partnership initiatives aimed at widening participation among young people and adults. She is linked to the School of English at the University of Kent and developed, recruited and taught outreach programmes for that department for a number of years alongside mainstream lecturing. She has also taught for the Open University, for Further Education Colleges and for the Open College Network.

Professor Rhiannon Evans MBE
Director
ACTION ON ACCESS

Professor Rhiannon Evans is Director of Action on Access, based at Edge Hill University where she was formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students and External) until May 2008, when she retired. With a first degree and a Masters in English from Sussex University, she has had a wide-ranging career in further, adult and higher education and has served on numerous working parties, committees and steering groups nationally and regionally, contributing to a number of significant reports. Deeply committed to widening participation she has led, on behalf of the University, a number of funded initiatives including Partnerships for Progression, Aimhigher and the Greater Merseyside Life Long Learning Network. She has made frequent keynote and other presentations at national conferences.

Rhiannon has been a member of Action on Access since 2003 and has been Director since 2006. Following a successful tender process, Action on Access was re-appointed as the national co-ordination team for widening participation for a further three years from 2009-11 and continues to be hosted by Edge Hill University. Rhiannon was awarded the MBE for services to higher education in the 2009 new year's honours list.

Professor Malcolm Gillies
Vice-Chancellor and President
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

Professor Malcolm Gillies became the Vice-Chancellor and President of City University London in 2007. He was previously Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and then Vice-President (Development) of the Australian National University, latterly based at Yale University.

He has strong interests in educational development and research policy. He was the President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (1998 – 2001) and inaugural President of the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (2004-6).

He is an Alternate Director of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator, Vice-Chair of London Higher and a Trustee of the City of London Academy Islington. He is also on the Research Policy Committee of Universities UK. In July 2008 he was appointed the Schools-Higher Education "Champion" for London by the then Schools Minister, Lord Adonis.

He is a doctoral graduate both of the University of London and the University of Melbourne and was a Hungarian Government Scholar at the Academy of Sciences in Budapest between 1983-5.

John Hall
Adviser, School-HE relationships
LONDON HIGHER

John Hall is the Specialist Adviser to London Higher (the regional university association for London's HE sector) on school and HE relationships. The minister for schools in London has appointed Prof Malcolm Gillies (Vice Chancellor, City University London) as the champion for HE partnerships, and John is currently examining each sector's views and capacities for building stronger relationships. Until 2008 John was the Regional Director for Aimhigher in London based at the Institute of Education, University of London, where he is a visiting fellow. His early career was an academic (a Geographer with a particular research interest in contemporary London), followed by heading up a local government association, secondment to the civil service and supporting London First's work with the HE and FE sectors. So his current work brings these many strands together in a highly stimulating way.

Phillip Harley
Schools and 14-19 Adviser
ACTION ON ACCESS

Phil has been the Schools and 14-19 Adviser for Action on Access since 2004 and was also an Area Adviser supporting Aimhigher partnerships. He has written a range of papers and publications on widening participation and the school agenda. He has also carried out international research on this subject. Until 2006 he was responsible for 14-19 transition policy and Aimhigher at Nottingham City Education Authority. In this role he sat on a range of regional bodies involved in the strategic planning for widening participation policies. He was a Teacher in 14-19 colleges for many years having a wide range of roles and responsibilities.

He is also a Special Lecturer at the University of Nottingham’s School of Education and acts as the 14-19 Adviser at the university’s centre for international ePortfolio development. He has published work on ePortfolios and is especially interested in how they can support widening participation. He has presented his work at international conferences.

Tricia Jenkins MBE
Head, Educational Opportunities
CENTRE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING
UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Tricia Jenkins is an innovative educator with high national visibility and a growing international reputation. Recognised as an expert in widening participation, access and equity issues, with 30 years experience as a Practitioner and over 12 years as Manager, Consultant and Policy Adviser, awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the 2005 New Years Honours list for services to higher education. Tricia is Head of Educational Opportunities at the University of Liverpool, where she is responsible for their ground-breaking widening participation activities. Her team delivers a substantial programme of local, regional, national and international activities with a variety of partners, including Aimhigher and the Council for Opportunity for Education in the USA.

The University of Liverpool has developed particular expertise on raising aspirations and understanding of university in younger age groups, most notably through its Professor Fluffy programme.

Jennifer Jupe
Strategic Director, Specialism and Curriculum Networks
SPECIALIST SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES TRUST (SSAT)

Jenny joined the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust in November 2004 as Director of Specialism and Curriculum Networks, having formerly held the post of Chief Executive for the Design and Technology Association. Jenny is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, with a masters degree from Birmingham University in Information and Communications Technology Education. She is a Trustee for the National Enterprise Business Partnership Network (NEBPN); the (Peter Jones) National Enterprise Academy and is a member of the DCFS 11-19 Programme Board. Jenny is also a Governor of two 11-18 Academies in the West Midlands.

In her role at SSAT Jenny has overall responsibility for the Specialist Schools Programme post designation support, including aspects of the High Performing Specialist Schools programme and the Community Networks programme. This work embraces Applied Learning Specialist School support, the Higher Education Network, the 14-19 reform programme practitioner training and the Enterprise Learning Partnership. Jenny was formally Curriculum Advisor to the DCSF, Strategically directing the Food in Schools Project, making a vital contribution to the Every Child Matters policy; her Directorate now manages the Licence to Cook programme.

Jenny works closely with Head Teachers of Specialist Schools and believes passionately in empowering school leaders and practitioners to lead system transformation. To this end SSAT Lead Practitioners™ are an approach that permeates all aspects of the Directorate's work. Jenny has wide experience of the issues surrounding effective pedagogy, the importance of subject knowledge as a vehicle for raising standards, the use of new and emerging technologies to facilitate school improvement, of training new entrants into the profession and of developing high quality CPD opportunities for teachers/educators. She is a prolific writer, making a significant contribution to a wide range of publications and is regularly invited to give keynote addresses.

Paul Marshall
Executive Director
1994 GROUP

Paul Marshall was appointed the first Executive Director of the 1994 Group in January 2006. The 1994 Group represents eighteen internationally renowned, research-intensive universities. The Group helps members promote their common interests in higher education, respond efficiently to key policy issues, and share best methods and practice.

A graduate of the University of Sussex (B.A. Hons. American Studies (History), M.A. American History), Paul began his career as Assistant Planning Officer at the University of Sussex in 1997 before moving to the position of Assistant to the Senior Management Group in 2001. At the University he was responsible, amongst many things, for managing planning for the Research Assessment Exercise and the co-ordination of the University's approach towards the introduction of the new tuition fee arrangements.

Successes at the 1994 Group include the publication in January 2008 of a major study assessing the likely impact of the Government's 14-19 curriculum reforms on member institutions, and, in November 2008, of a report exploring the employability prospects of graduates from research-intensive institutions.

Paul chairs the Creative and Media Diploma Development Partnership Higher Education Advisory Group and is a member of the DCSF 14-19 HE Engagement Board, the DCSF Qualification and Progression Project Board and the UUK/UCEA Employers Pension Forum. He has been an LEA appointed Governor at Longhill School, Brighton since 2002.

Felicity Martin
Head Teacher
EGGARS SCHOOL, ALTON

Felicity Martin has been Head Teacher of Eggar's Community School in Hampshire for 11 years. Previously she was a Deputy Head in two Southampton City schools. Eggar's is a Specialist Science College and last year achieved Training School status. At the last Ofsted Inspection the school was described as 'Outstanding'.

In 2005, under the National College for School Leadership initiative, Felicity became a National Leader of Education. In 2007 Eggar's was the 7th most improved school in the country for the achievement of five or more GCSE high grades including English and Maths. In the same year, after partnership work with several other schools, Felicity became an Associate Head Teacher for the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust.

Felicity is a member of the National Council for Educational Excellence. She is a Strand Leader leading the group making recommendations to the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister on the further development of highly effective school partnerships which raise attainment for all children.

Eamon Martin
Director Education Partnerships
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

Eamon Martin has held a number of management roles within London HE institutions (North London; Goldsmiths College and City University) which have focused on admissions, recruitment and partnership development. His current role is to develop a number of key relationships for City University which include a number of Foundation and Access programme providers - together with Schools. He has played a leading role in development of City University's sponsorship of an Academy (The City of London Academy in Islington) - overseeing a range of University interactions with the Academy embracing governance, curriculum development and student/staff support. Support from the University has helped to transform a local school into a new Academy with a strong focus on business and enterprise.

He is Chair of the governing body of a large and successful community school in Lewisham which is part of a 14-19 Federation.

Professor Sa'ad Medhat
Chief Executive
NEW ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

Professor Sa'ad Medhat is the founding Chief Executive of the New Engineering Foundation (NEF), an educational grant awarding charity and think-tank that supports the development of Vocational Education and Knowledge and Technology Transfer in science, engineering and technology - especially in Further Education. NEF's programmes new and emerging technologies have so far impacted some 140,000 learners.

Sa'ad is a Visiting Professor to Bournemouth University and a member of the Parliamentary and Science Committee. Sa'ad has been a member of the HEFCE's Quality Assessment in Learning and Teaching (QALT) Committee (2002-07) and a member of University of Bristol Court.

Sa'ad held a number of senior industrial and academic positions including Vice President of Futuremedia PLC, Director of ETB, founding Principal of Dubai University College, IBM Professor of Concurrent Engineering; Intergraph Professor of Electronic Design Automation; and Head of Research at Bournemouth University. He has published widely with over 60 publications and books worldwide and holds a number of invention patents.

Professor Alasdair Smith
Consultant
DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES (DCSF)

Professor Alasdair Smith was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex from 1998 to 2007. He is now a consultant in the Office of the Schools Commissioner in the Department for Children, Schools and Families supporting University engagement in the Academy Schools programme. He has been a Professor of Economics at Sussex since 1981. His academic work focuses on the effects of international trade on competition, growth and the distribution of income. He was chair of the 1994 Group of universities from 2001 to 2005, and chair of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association in 2006-7. He is a member of the Review Body on Doctors' and Dentists' Remuneration.

Alan Watts
Aimhigher Co-ordinator
AIMHIGHER TOWER HAMLETS

After obtaining a degree in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College, London, and a PGCE from the Institute of Education, Alan Watts spent over twenty five as a Teacher of science in London schools. During this time he was the Head of two school science departments and a secondary science Advisory Teacher.

In 2001 Alan Watts was appointed to the post of Excellence Challenge Co-ordinator in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the title changing when the initiative changed to Aimhigher. He is currently the Co-Chair of the London East and Thames Gateway Aimhigher Area Partnership Committee, and the Chair of the Pan London Aimhigher LA Coordinators Group. He is a member of the SHELL (Schools – HE Links in London) Steering Group.

Jo Wiggans
Director
AIMHIGHER GREATER MANCHESTER

Jo Wiggans is Director of Aimhigher in Greater Manchester. Greater Manchester is the largest Aimhigher partnership in the country and includes 7 higher education institutions, 22 further education and sixth form colleges and more than 150 maintained secondary schools in 10 separate local authority districts plus Connexions services, workbased learning providers and others. Aimhigher is funded until July 2011 to work with targeted young people to raise their aspirations through innovative activities including summer schools, masterclasses, campus visits, student ambassadors, mentoring - to name but a few. Aimhigher also organises area-wide collaborative events and activities, publications and practitioner support materials.

Jo was previously Assistant Director for the Open University in the North West, with a leading role in student support and retention activities and responsibility for outreach and marketing. She also has experience of teaching and lecturing, course leadership and course design in higher education and fieldwork with young people and local communities.

Tom Wilks
Schools Liaison Officer
CLARE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Tom attended a run-of-the-mill state school in the East Midlands, and had very little support with his application to Cambridge. Somehow, he managed to succeed in getting a place to study Natural Sciences at Clare College, and over the course of his four-year Masters degree specialised in Chemistry. During his degree, Tom became involved in various outreach initiatives with local schools, including the annual Chemistry Open Day, and a scheme called STIMULUS which saw him volunteering as a classroom assistant for a few hours a week.

At the end of his time at Clare, the opportunity came up to apply for the post of Schools Liaison Officer. Tom decided to apply because he wanted to be able to help teachers and school students to understand the admissions process, to ensure that they would not have the same negative experience that he had. Tom firmly believes in widening participation, and has spent most of his time working in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and the West Midlands to encourage students from schools that would not traditionally send anyone to Cambridge to apply, and also to raise aspirations of Higher Education in general. This work is achieved in partnership with local businesses, AimHigher and the Gifted and Talented programme.

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