

Title: **Re-Freshers: student centred and student designed engagement**

Presenter: **Jeanne Hill**
University of Central Lancashire

Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Acknowledge the value of collecting and responding to student views from the point of view of student engagement but also in staff personal and professional development
- Assess the appropriateness of the Re-Freshers model to their course(s) and institutions
- Identify mechanisms for using the Re-Freshers model in their own institutions
- Create a draft implementation plan for duplicating the Re-Freshers model
- Identify potential implications for staff development of using the model

Session Outline

The Re-Freshers project is one of the activities carried out under the “Transitions 2: Engagement” project funded through the University of Central Lancashire’s Teaching and Learning strategy managed by the Learning Development Unit (LDU).

The Engagement project focuses on the stages and transitions of student experience from approximately the middle of the first year through to graduation. These transitions include not only their progress from dependent to independent learners in their academic development, but also the development of their social skills, employability, confidence and personal maturity.

The session will include an overview of the Engagement project’s various initiatives, and in particular, focus on the activities of Re-Freshers’ Week as an example of how student views were used to guide a week-long programme of student-centred learning, social network building and active engagement between academic staff and year 2 and 3 students on a variety of marketing-related degrees.

Key issues to be addressed include:

- patterns of engagement and transition
- how to identify student views
- engaging students in planning and implementing a programme for themselves and their peers to actively engagement them in their own learning and development
- problems and opportunities for academic staff engaged in such a programme
- implications for staff development

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

- Overview of the Engagement project (10 min.)
- Case history of the Re-Freshers initiative (20 min.)

- Discussion/exercise in assessing the Re-Freshers model's applicability to participants' institutions (10 min.)
- Discussion of staff development implications (5 min.)

References

Carini, R.M., Kuh, G.D. and Klein, S.P. (2006) Student engagement and student learning: Testing the linkages. *Research in Higher Education*, 47(1), pp. 1-32.

Christie, H., Munro, M. and Fisher, T. (2004) Leaving university early: exploring the differences between continuing and non-continuing students. *Studies in Higher Education*, 29(5), pp. 617-636.

Rowley, J. (2003) Retention: rhetoric or realistic agendas for the future of higher education. *The International Journal of Educational Management*, 17(6), pp. 248-253.