

13th Annual SEDA Conference 2008

Changing Educational Development: Whose Values? Whose Agendas? Whose Future?

Keynote

Time for Change: challenging higher educational development

Dr Liz Beaty, Director of Strategic Academic Practice and Partnership, University of Cumbria

Knowing the importance invested in changing the wording from Centres of Excellence to Centres for Excellence following the 2003 white paper I am somewhat nervous of talking to my title. I could talk about times of change and on how the current political social and economic climate might affect our roles as educational developers. But I would rather assert our agency as developers and talk about the requirements of our mission.

In this opening keynote I will look back at a career spent in educational development to pull out professional learning and discuss how to use this experience in the current context. I will look forward to the new opportunities and describe ways we might use our professional skills better to meet the mission and values of our organisation.

The presentation will also introduce “reflective prospect” to the conference that will set a challenge to all participants to contribute to a conference blog.

Liz Beaty

Liz Beaty is Director of Strategic Academic Practice and Partnership at the University of Cumbria where she has strategic responsibility for teaching and learning, participation and progression, and for partnerships with UK universities and colleges. Liz has been involved from the beginning of aspirations and planning for the new university in her role as Director of Learning and Teaching at the Higher Education Funding Council for England where she was responsible for HEFCEs relationships with northern Universities. The five years at HEFCE included designing the programme to deliver learning and teaching enhancements following the 2003 White Paper. This included the funding of 74 Centres for Excellence in teaching and learning, the development of the Higher Education Academy, the National Student Survey and the Elearning strategy.

Liz has a degree in Sociology from University of Essex and a PhD in Educational Technology from the University of Surrey. Her career has spanned research at the Open University, educational development at Northumbria Polytechnic, teaching management and educational development at University of Brighton and leading a change project at Coventry University. Throughout her career she has championed the use of experiential and action learning and supported the move towards professional accreditation for higher education teaching. She is an active member of SEDA the Staff and Educational Development Association and was co Chair of the association for four years. She shares her enthusiasm for innovations in ICT with her partner of 22 years Professor Mike Sharples. They have two grown up children.