

Supporting the research-engaged practitioner

Practitioners across the FE and skills sector are choosing to undertake and engage with research and the use of evidence. A growing range of services are available to support them. This document explains the opportunities offered by three organisations.

Education and Training Foundation: Practitioner Research Programme

The Foundation works with other organisations who seek the same ends – namely growing and supporting a research culture in FE, and promoting “*research for the sector, by the sector*”. The Foundation runs a practitioner research programme, first established in 2009 in partnership with the University of Sunderland, which supports those working in the sector to undertake research in an area that they themselves have identified as in need of improvement. In doing so it also promotes the Professional Standards and the objectives of the Society for Education and Training (SET). Details of the 2016-17 practitioner research opportunities will be published on our website in July 2016. <http://www.et-foundation.co.uk/research/> Contact: sheila.kearney@etfoundation.co.uk

Association of Colleges: The Scholarship Project

The AoC/HEFCE Scholarship Project <https://www.aoc.co.uk/enhancing-scholarship-in-college-higher-education-the-scholarship-project> aims to support the development and embedding of a distinct college HE scholarly ethos across the sector, associated with technical education at Levels 4 and higher, by creating a ‘scholarship framework’ that can be adopted by all colleges, and one which is firmly centred on enhancing the learning experience for students. Specifically, the project will continue to encourage individual staff to develop their own scholarly profiles and explore how these might be better integrated into a distinct context. This will include support for colleges in developing a more strategic and institutional approach to scholarly activity. In addition the project will explore the ways in which students might become more scholarly in their higher learning activities, and how links with local employers might become a more embedded feature of the scholarly profile. Contact: john.lea@aoc.co.uk

Learning and Skills Research Network: workshops and seminars

LSRN is voluntary network open to all interested in research and the use of evidence. It runs a workshop for practitioners every autumn in London at which practitioners, researchers and teacher trainers meet to share experiences and develop thinking on practice-based research. Its regional convenors also organise occasional seminars throughout England. Information about research from many sector organisations is communicated via a termly newsletter and website. www.lsrn.wordpress.com Contact: Andrew Morris a.j.morris@ucl.ac.uk