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Welcome!

Centre for Bioscience update June 2008

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Centre News

New Short Guides

The Centre has recently developed four short guides based around specific areas of learning and teaching. Intended as informal, accessible introductions to various topics, the guides complement the information and material available on our website. The guides produced so far are: Transition to higher education; Preventing and designing out plagiarism; Inclusive learning and teaching in the biosciences; and Advice on starting your bioscience course, a guide for students.

The guides are available to order (free if charge) or download from www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/shortguides.aspx

Feedback on the guides? Suggestions for future short guides? Please get in touch!

E-Learning snapshot

At this time of year many of us are looking to update our modules with new e-learning materials or products. What the Centre would like to know is which ones and why? Please spend a couple of minutes and send us a paragraph of your current e-Learning interests and activity. What we would like to know is:

- What is your next step for using e-Learning materials in your course? (e.g. buy-in or create your own, or other?)
- Which technologies do you feel are likely to be most fruitful for your teaching?
- Do you feel your Virtual Learning Environment provides all you need for e-Learning delivery - and which VLE are you using?
- What are the main barriers encountered when implementing e-learning?
- Which is your favourite e-Learning solution, and why?
- What would you recommend to others in your discipline?
- What is your best source for following e-Learning developments?
- Any other comments?

Rather than a formal online survey we would encourage you to email the Centre with a few comments based around the above questions. We would like to gather this data quickly so that we can summarise our communities' interests and concerns to inform forthcoming events. Please email t.j.mcandrew@leeds.ac.uk with your response and thanks for your time.

Centre Events

Regional Fora

An opportunity for teaching staff to meet with colleagues from local institutions to network, share practice and find out more about the activities of the Centre for Bioscience. There is no charge for registration and lunch is provided.

North-West Forum

Wednesday 25 June, Simon Building, University of Manchester

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/regforumnw250608.aspx

London Forum

Thursday 26 June, Room GCG-08, Graduate Centre, London Metropolitan University

www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/events/london08.aspx

News from the HE Learning and Teaching Community

Online Seminar Series

The Engineering Subject Centre is pleased to launch a free, online seminar series which is designed to introduce participants to a range of learning technologies. Delivered directly to you online, these seminars need just one hour of your time on the day along with preparatory materials available in video format.

Using Second Life® (SL) in Engineering. 24th June, 14:00-15:00.

The seminar will provide an in-world introduction, a chance to talk to SL experts, network with fellow delegates and a "hands-on" exhibition demonstrating aspects of SL of potential use to engineers and science lecturers. Full details and online application for seminars can be found at: www.engsc.ac.uk/onsem.asp

Events from the HE Learning and Teaching Community

Maths for Chemistry

Wednesday 18th June, RSC, Burlington House, London

This informal meeting will allow members to hear about the development of new resources. This is a joint meeting organised by The Higher Education Academy Physical Sciences Centre and the Royal Society of Chemistry Education Department.

www.heacademy.ac.uk/physsci/events/detail/maths_for_chemistry_june_2008

Maths, Stats & OR Network Workshop – employability skills

Monday 23rd June, Centre for Integrative Learning, University of Nottingham

This workshop focuses on developing graduate and employability skills within a mathematical sciences programme. There is no charge for attending the workshop, but online registration is required at: www.mathstore.ac.uk/index.php?pid=199

Using concept mapping in Neurobiology

Wednesday 25th June, King's College London

The workshop will introduce the method and review of data collected in the course of university teaching. Concept mapping allows teachers to research their students' prior-knowledge and to document learning empirically. This can be done even among very large classes and has little impact on overall teaching time. At King's College we have used the approach as part of our programme of academic development and the data we will present will show how various university lecturers now use concept mapping to improve their teaching. The workshops are free of charge, but numbers are limited. To reserve a place or to request further information, please contact: Alicia King, tel: 020 7848 3905, e-mail: alicia.king@kcl.ac.uk

Higher Education Academy Annual Conference 2008

1st – 3rd July, Harrogate International Centre, Harrogate

The overarching theme for the 2008 Conference is “Transforming the student experience” which will be explored through the themes of: Policy and Leadership; Student Feedback and Engagement; Learning and Teaching; Employment, Entrepreneurship and Recruitment; Internationalisation; and Assessment.

Confirmed keynotes include David Crosier, Programme Development Director, European University Association; Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills; and Dr Colin Beard, Sheffield Hallam University. The Annual lecture will be delivered by Professor Laurie Taylor.

Further details and online booking www.heacademy.ac.uk/events/conference

Other Items

Evaluator of the STEM Subject Centres

The STEM group of the Subject Network is composed of the following Subject Centres: Bioscience; Engineering; Information and Computer Science; Materials; Mathematics, Statistics and Operational Research; and, Physical Sciences. Collaboration amongst the STEM group is strong, and there exists a natural overlap between the individual communities each Subject Centre represents. For 2008/2009, the STEM group is keen to appoint a joint Evaluator to evaluate the activities of each individual Subject Centre along with the activities of the STEM group as a whole. The job description and application process is available from www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk/ftp/opportunities/stemevaluator.pdf

DIUS Consultation on Skills

On Monday 14th April the DIUS published its high level skills strategy, 'Higher Education at Work – High Skills: High Value'. Through this they are consulting with employers, learners and higher education providers on what more they need to do to equip the workforce with the skills required for an innovative and competitive economy. Their strategy will be driven by demand from employers and learners, see

www.dius.gov.uk/consultations/con_0408_hlss.html for further information.

You are able to respond online at

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=piD_2fkXv9ed8LrZX8xpaHTQ_3d_3d; alternatively the Centre for Bioscience will be coordinating a response on behalf of our community. If you wish to contribute to the Centre for Bioscience response please get back to us with your views by Monday 30 June.

With best wishes from all at the Centre for Bioscience,

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