

Student Engagement Conference 2023: What does student engagement mean to you?

Session abstracts

20 April 2023

Parallel Session 1, 12:00 - 13:00

Workshop 1 / Room: GM226

AI: When robots enter the classroom: Who will be smarter?

Chrissie Gallagher-Mundy and David Weale, UCFB

Get informed! AI is a vast and breaking field that needs addressing quickly in the HE sector and our workshop will introduce attendees to the basics of one of many AI possibilities, for the working lecturer. In this workshop we will be exploring the potential application of such technologies in the educational sector and tips for how to get the best out of the chat robots!

Workshop 2 / Room: GM230

Enhancing performance: Re-engaging students with contextualised study support

Julie Warden, Tom Robshaw, William Martin and Fonda Sheard, University of Bradford

Engagement of university students is complex and challenging. At the University of Bradford, the student attainment team successfully re-engages underperforming Science students. We provide additional study support to undergraduates that builds confidence around independent learning and enhances attainment. Our interventions are research informed: Student engagement facilitates the occurrence of quality learning. Key is that students feel they individually 'matter'. We seek to employ solution-focused coaching, empowering students to develop confidence in independent learning. Our intervention results in high re-engagement rates and enhanced performance. We will invite workshop attendees to critique our approach, and to consider potential merits of its wider application.

Workshop 3 / Room: GM234

Together we will succeed

Tao Jiang, Samantha Gent, Ruitong Huang, Safa Kadir and Viktoria Zame, University of Leeds

This session aims to discuss how the University of Leeds delivers its commitment to access and student success through its institutional strategy and governance. It will also highlight the importance of student-staff collaboration in achieving this strategic goal. Using Leeds University Business School as an example, this session will demonstrate how students and staff work together to enhance access and student success.

Workshop 4 / Room: GM235

Embracing the Living Lab concept for fostering inter-disciplinary learning

Dr Adam Odell, Dr Cath Heinemeyer, Raven Owen-Livingstone and Charlotte Porter, York St John University

York St John University (YSJU) has recently embraced the 'Living Lab' concept to create an institution-wide collaborative learning environment for enhancing student engagement. During this session, we will: 1. describe how a Living Lab was established at YSJU; 2. discuss how this approach was used in biosciences to development student awareness of

how to apply their specialist knowledge in a social justice setting; and 3. evaluate the successes and lessons-learned from adopting this inter-disciplinary learning approach.

Parallel Session 2, 14:00 - 15:00

Workshop 5 / Room: GM226

[Turn up the Volume: Driving Student Engagement through Student Voice](#)

Dr Helena Lim, Conor Murray-Gauld, Evasys and Poppy Lindsey, Reading University Students' Union

Giving students a say in their learning experiences does not necessarily lead to increased engagement. While most higher education institutions have a range of mechanisms to capture the 'student voice', most UK students still do not feel that their feedback is heard or acted on at institutional level. Ratings for the National Student Survey question 25 'It is clear how students' feedback on the course has been acted on' has seen a downward trajectory in recent years and remains depressingly low. This interactive, collaborative session will explore different approaches for 'turning up the volume' on the student voice to drive student engagement in learning, build belonging and contribute to positive learning environments.

Workshop 6 / Room: GM230

[Find your space, find your people: Building an engaged student community through co-creation](#)

Anna Izykowska, Imani Patel, Iman Colclough, Rajul Rajakumar, Chrisy Bishay and Polly Wallace-Kruger, University of Sussex

The Connector Programme sees students and staff working together as equal partners to improve the student experience at Sussex. We hire Student Connectors who co-deliver projects with staff and we pride ourselves on our engaged Student Connector community. We utilise campus and digital spaces to run initiatives, collaborate and communicate with students who work with us. This workshop is an opportunity to learn how co-creation can improve engagement and a sense of belonging. We will look at the importance of community through the student lens, and you will hear from Student Connectors about their experience of participating in the programme.

Workshop 7 / Room: GM234

[Exploring and analysing mechanisms for enhancing student engagement: A case study. The Hartpury University student engagement strategy](#)

Simon Bicknell and Alice Tocknell, Hartpury University

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Workshop 8 / Room: GM235

[Making academics your students: Engaging staff to engage students](#)

Dr Megan De Ste Croix, Staffordshire University

At Staffordshire University we are supporting staff through a reflective writing workshop. This workshop was designed to support those undertaking HEA fellowship applications, however it also acts as a blueprint for staff interested in developing these skills in their students. This session gives you an opportunity to experience part of this reflective writing workshop. Through a "silent coaching" approach you will delve into a challenge of your choosing, and have an opportunity to explore it in depth with a small group of participants in the room.