



Skills for Learning Professionals

Press release

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NEW FE RECRUITMENT DRIVE TARGETS ENGINEERS AND HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS

- Health and social professionals and engineers encouraged to become FE tutors
 - New report highlights industry skills shortages
 - Free courses to run in the spring

A new initiative entitled 'Pass on Your Skills' is being launched today by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) aimed at encouraging engineers and health and social care professionals to pass on their experience and expertise to others by becoming a teacher, tutor or trainer in the Further Education (FE) sector.

The campaign addresses the skills shortage within these sectors, identified in the report 'Bridging the Skills Gap' published today to mark the launch of the initiative. According to the report, engineering and health and social care represent two of the UK's industries which are suffering from a skills shortage, with more than half of today's businesses finding it more difficult to recruit employees with the skills they need than they did five years ago.

In addition, a recent survey commissioned by LLUK found that the majority of people (57%) did not feel that the UK was fully equipped to be able to deal with the economic, social and technological developments that are taking place in the world today. When asked about how they felt about the future, the

most common response among those surveyed was 'concerned' at 45%, double the number of the next most popular answer of 'hopeful' at just 24%.

The Pass on Your Skills initiative aims to help address the issue by offering a number of free courses to professionals in two of the UK's industries which are suffering from a skills shortage. The Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) courses, which will be available for professionals in the engineering and health and social care industries, will be commencing in the spring. PTLLS is an initial award, which all new entrants to teaching in the learning and skills sector will have to complete before they can teach without mentoring and support from a qualified person. It is designed to support those embarking on teaching careers within the Learning and Skills sector and will form the early part of the initial teacher training programme leading to either Associate Teacher Learning and Skills Status or Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills Status.

The drive to engage professionals in these two industries follows on from the successful pilot scheme which recruited and trained construction professionals to teach in the FE sector. The response was enormously successful with around 4,500 applicants requesting further information about the scheme.

Saskia Coplans, Project Manager for Pass on Your Skills said, "Many in the health and social care and engineering sectors have a huge wealth of experience and expertise which could be used help to train the workforce of the future. The PTLLS courses are designed to help professionals learn how to pass on their skills by developing teaching skills and confidence.

"Health and social care and engineering professionals have a lot to gain by becoming a teacher, tutor or trainer in the FE sector, and because their expertise is in demand, they can choose whether to get involved full time or even just a couple of hours a week. We are encouraging as many people as possible to sign up and discover a new and rewarding way to use their

practical experience and ensure there's a new generation of professionals who really know what they're doing.”

Spaces on these free courses are limited so please contact the Pass on Your Skills Information Line on 0845 602 6398 or log on to www.passonyourskills.com for further information and to receive your application form.

- Ends -

For media information, please contact:

Jo Drane / Miranda Seymour
3 Monkeys Communications
020 7440 2410
jod@3-monkeys.co.uk
Miranda@3-monkeys.co.uk

Saskia Coplans
LLUK Pass on Your Skills - Catalyst Programme
0113 241 0420
saskiacoplans@lluk.org

Notes to Editors

- The Pass on Your Skills initiative is one of four programmes, collectively known as the Catalyst campaign, laid out 2006 White Paper ‘Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances.’ Catalyst aims to generate a more effective FE Sector, which provides learners with the best possible teaching and learning experiences and is thus able to raise the skills of the nation’s entire workforce and meet the demand-led skills needs of employers.

- Lifelong Learning UK is one of 25 sector skills councils that make up the Skills for Business Network, set up by employers to raise skills levels among the workforce as a whole through better training and development. See: www.lluk.org
- LLUK aims to encourage teachers, trainers, librarians and other staff to gain new skills and qualifications so that they offer a better service to young people, adult learners, employers and the wider community.
- LLUK also promotes lifelong learning as a career so that employers in the sector have less difficulty recruiting and retaining staff.
- In addition to developing sector-wide occupational standards and qualifications frameworks, LLUK also produces labour market intelligence so that lifelong learning employers can identify skills gaps and shortages among their own workforce.