



PRESS RELEASE

17th January 2013

The Construction Industry Council(CIC) North-West Regional Committee, The Higher Education Academy and CITB-Construction Skills form partnership to launch The Learner Voice initiative, a pilot workplace mentoring scheme.

CIC is delighted to announce its North-West Regional Committee, chaired by Aled Williams, in partnership with the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and CITB-Construction Skills have launched a workplace based mentoring scheme for students in Northwest England taking place between February and July 2013.

A consortium of universities in the North-West of England that include Liverpool John Moores University, University of Bolton, University of Central Lancashire, University of Salford and the University of Manchester, have engaged in the scheme which aims to match 2nd year Built Environment undergraduates with construction industry professionals who have successfully built careers in their chosen fields.

The scheme has already secured interest from 40 potential employer mentors and firms such as The Co-Operative Group, ISG, GVA, The Casey Group Ltd, Seddon Construction, Wates, Kier Construction, Laing O'Rourke, Mansell Construction Services Ltd, Lend Lease, Cruden, Forrest, Green Project Management Ltd, Capita Symonds, Raynes Architecture Ltd, Oriel Services Ltd, Integrated Health and Safety Ltd and the Homes and Communities Agency.

The organisers are calling for professionals in graduate roles with at least two years' experience in employment in the construction industry, who are willing to spend a short amount of time meeting with one or more students, to come forward to act as mentors.

The aims of the project are to help students to link the theory of their university course to real workplace practice and to introduce them to professionals already working in the roles that they aspire to. For mentors it may provide an opportunity to reflect on their own work, meet other mentors and gain CPD in mentoring. At the end of the project, in the summer, there will be a meeting of mentors and organisers to share experiences and consider how the pilot workplace programme might be progressed.

Aled Williams, CIC Regional Chair/HEA Discipline Lead (Built Environment), said: 'Having people who are prepared to act as mentors provides a great opportunity for a student and has the potential to make the difficult transition from study to work both easier and more successful'.

Individuals and employers interested in participating in The Learner Voice as mentors can contact Aled Williams, aled.williams@heacademy.ac.uk or Roy Cavanagh MBE, roy.cavanagh@seddon.co.uk for further information.

An Invitation to the Mentoring Scheme and Guidance for Mentors documents are attached.

Ends

Notes to the editor

1. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.
2. The HEA is a national body for enhancing learning and teaching in higher education in the UK. We work with institutions across the HE system to help bring about change in learning and teaching to improve the outcomes for students. We do this by recognising and rewarding excellent teaching, bringing together people and resources to research and share best practice and by helping influence, shape and implement policy.
3. CITB-Construction Skills is the Sector Skills Council and Industry Training Board for the construction industry, working with industry, for industry to deliver a safe, professional and fully qualified UK construction workforce. We work with construction companies to help them improve skills, increase their competitive edge and respond to the many challenges employers face – from the low carbon agenda, through to reducing costs on-site and recruiting the best and brightest talent for their sector.

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