

## STEM Equality and Diversity Newsletter

Welcome to the first STEM Equality and Diversity (STEM E&D) newsletter, aimed at sharing information and updates. Of course, we cannot claim to know about all new initiatives and activities around STEM E&D and would love to receive contributions for future issues. Here is a round-up of some of the information we are aware of and associated weblinks where we have them.

We hope you find the newsletter useful and will incorporate the information into the resources section of the [STEM Equality and Diversity Toolkit](#). If you have any items which you would like added please let us know at [wiset@shu.ac.uk](mailto:wiset@shu.ac.uk).

- \* The STEM E&D Toolkit is constantly updated and a case study on '[Stereotypical Y9 Options Choices](#)' was recently added.
- \* At the Education Employers Taskforce Conference 2011 the following paper was delivered: 'Exploring social mobility and delivery mechanisms in international perspective' link to the slides and papers. '[The importance of experience of the world of work in admissions to Russell Group universities](#)' includes information on engineering courses:
- \* EHRC Report [All things being equal?](#) Equality and Diversity in careers education, information, advice and guidance. The Commission commissioned the research for this report to identify and assess the equality impact of CEIAG policy and practice for children and young people aged seven to 16 on young peoples destinations post 16.
- \* [The Bridge Group](#) is a source of expert opinion on social mobility through higher education. It aims to inform policy recommendations in particular areas of interest including: Information, Advice & Guidance, Employability & the Professions, Data & Transparency and Student Funding & Financial Support. "The Group is non-partisan. As such, colleagues are invited to contribute independently of their employer and/or any other institution with which they are associated." Lessons learned in the STEM Subject Choice and Careers project have been fed into the group.

- \* The HE STEM Programme has a wide range of activities being delivered nationally. This includes some interesting projects related to inclusion and [widening participation](#), for example 'Visual Impairment and STEM'
- \* [The Stonewall](#) education guide on working with faith communities provides advice on how to tackle homophobic bullying in a faith context, supporting materials and case studies:
- \* [Participation Works](#) has a range of resources to promote inclusion, such as: 'How to engage with diverse groups in schools and other educational settings' and 'The inclusive learning and teaching handbook':
- \* [Engineering UK](#) reports mention equality and diversity issues and specifically highlight gender in 'An investigation into why the UK has the lowest proportion of female engineers in the EU'
- \* [Joseph Rowntree Trust](#) report 'Poverty, Ethnicity and Education'. According to the introduction "This paper seeks to draw out what we know and what we do not know about the underlying causes of the differential employment and pay benefits (returns) of education between different ethnic groups, and the ways in which these interact with other factors which, such as gender and social class, which affect the benefits of education."
- \* Judith Burns Education reporter, BBC News, [reported](#) on 18 January:  
 University summer schools, designed to encourage applications from poorer youngsters, make a significant impact, suggests research. Among students who attended summer schools run by the Sutton Trust, 76% gained places at leading universities, according to a report from the education charity.  
 The figure for students not attending the summer schools was 55%.  
 Researchers said the findings suggested that "summer schools do work".
- \* [The Social Mobility Toolkit for the Professions](#) was launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 and provides practical recommendations for employer organisations of all sizes, professional bodies and regulators on how they can track and foster social mobility. The toolkit examines the economic, business and moral case for social mobility; the state of social mobility in the UK and the recent policy initiatives in this area by the current Government. It also provides best-practice advice on how to collect and process data on social mobility and how organisations can diversify the socio-economic profile of their members and employees.

Other newsletters you may wish to subscribe to:

Equality and Diversity Forum's fortnightly [e-newsletter](#) with information across all strands of E&D:

[Constructing Equality](#) sends out a monthly newsletter which covers different strands of equality and goes beyond construction in many instances:

Tony Johns sends out regular updates on developments in work experience, with some useful links relating to inclusion and safeguarding, sign up at: [tonyjohns@enterprise.net](mailto:tonyjohns@enterprise.net)

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February 2012