

STEM Equality and Diversity Newsletter - February 2013

Welcome to the third 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 (www.stem-e-and-d-toolkit.co.uk). If you have any items which you would like added please let us know at wiset@shu.ac.uk.

- * CaSE (Campaign for Science and Engineering) published a [report](#) last year 'Socioeconomic Diversity in STEM Higher Education' addresses the question "How do individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds fare in their opportunities to pursue STEM undergraduate degrees at UK higher education institutions?"
- * The Institute of Physics continues to investigate the issue of how to encourage girls to study physics beyond GCSE and last year published ['It's different for Girls: The Influence of Schools'](#).
- * The progress report by the Independent Reviewer on Social Mobility and Child Poverty Fair Access to Professional Careers was published in May 2012. This [report](#) looks at progress made since the Milburn Report in 2009 (*Unleashing Aspiration*, the report of the Panel on Fair Access) which considered "what the UK's professions were doing to aid and abet social mobility in our country."
- * Tessa Stone of the Bridge Group makes the connection between STEM Careers and social mobility in an [article](#) in the Guardian.
- * Engineering UK has published it's [annual report](#), complete with diversity information and up to date statistics and regional information to support recruitment into STEM Careers.
- * In May 2012 the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published a [policy report](#) to "look in depth at how we should support the ambitions and career development of disabled people". Working Better: The perfect partnership - working solutions for disabled people and business is available on the EHRC website.

- * The OECD has published a [report](#) on the opportunities for young people from poor families or whose parents have had a limited education. The report maintains that "enrolling children early in formal education and keeping schools mixed in terms of social backgrounds have more impact in boosting educational equality than other factors, such as parental support or the cost of tuition fees."
- * The Aspires team at Kings College continues to publish reports and papers resulting from its research into young people and science careers. One journal article last year looked at the influence of family "Science Aspirations, Capital and Family Habitus: How Families Shape Children's Engagement and Identification with Science" is published by [Sage](#)
- * Another EHRC [report](#) published in 2012 looked at the law in relation to equality, human rights and religion or belief and how it is understood and applied in the workplace.
- * The disability rights charity [RADAR](#) has created a new guide "Doing Careers Differently - How to make a success of your career while living with a disability or health condition". The guide has different sections for people who are just starting their career planning or for those whose circumstances have changed, there are case studies of people in work and employer's perspectives too.
- * The Higher Education Academy has created a set of toolkits for practitioners to support the widening participation agenda. Drawing on lessons learned from Aim Higher and other programmes to increase diversity within higher education the toolkits focus on strategy, management and outreach to improve participation rates. http://www.heacademy.ac.uk/resources/detail/WP_outreach_toolkits/overview
- * The Royal Academy of Engineering publishes a 'Diversity in Engineering' newsletter, the latest edition, published in October 2012, is available [here](#). The Academy also has STEM teaching resources available for download, including one on [diversity](#).
- * [WISE](#) has created a new poster for schools entitled '101 jobs from Science and Maths'. Developed with the Women in SET team here at the Centre for Science Education, the poster has an accompanying activity sheet for teachers or others involved in promoting gender equality in STEM.
- * 'Where next for STEM Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance?' is a policy and strategy [briefing paper](#) produced by the Science and Innovation Observatory (SIO) at Sheffield Hallam University. The SIO explored what is happening in schools following the end of the funding for the STEM Careers project

in order to better understand how STEM subjects can be presented and promoted in the new policy landscape.

* WISE recently published the latest statistics guide - [UK Statistics 2012](#) 'Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: from Classroom to Boardroom'. The guide provides the latest statistics on women's participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (based on a snapshot of data in November 2012).

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