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Staff – Student Partnerships in Teaching and Learning Hearing from the students themselves!

Day 2 – Keynote Session I (12.00-13.00)

Engaging students as partners in the course design process is thought to be a mechanism for improving engagement, enhancing the quality of teaching and learning and improving students' university experience. In 2007, Trowler¹ undertook a literature review on student engagement on behalf of the Higher Education Academy, with a view to providing an evidence base for practice in the UK. Subsequently, the Higher Education Academy identified 'improving engagement' as a strategic priority for universities. The MSOR community responded in several ways: the MSOR Subject Centre ran two workshops with undergraduate mathematics students (e.g. Waller (2012)²) and MSOR Connections began to publish regular student contributions (e.g. http://mathstore.ac.uk/headocs/1003_student_pullout.pdf). The National HE STEM Programme promoted further development by funding several student internships at a number of institutions. At the CETL MSOR Conference in 2011 there were, for the first time at the Conference, several presentations in which students themselves described outcomes of working in partnership with staff to improve the teaching and learning experience of their peers, for example through revision of course notes or preparation of additional learning resources.

This theme continues in the 2013 Conference. Students from the universities of Birmingham, Cardiff, Loughborough, and Newcastle, who have been working with staff on a wide range of teaching and learning projects will describe aspects of their work, its outcomes and the personal benefits for them of engaging with staff in this way.

This session is likely to be of interest to all delegates as it sheds light on the value and potential of staff-student partnerships, but particularly for those who are interested in exploring ways in which they too might take this strategic agenda forward for the benefit of all students.

¹Trowler, V. (2010). *Student Engagement Literature Review*. York: The Higher Education Academy.

²Waller, D., (2012) Student Engagement Workshop, MSOR Connections 12(2). http://mathstore.ac.uk/headocs/Connections_12_2_Waller.pdf