



*The partnership to promote
excellence in learning*

Partnership of post-16 education providers goes from strength to strength.

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Organisations from across the post-compulsory education sector within the South West have come together to form a dynamic partnership to support and promote training for the post-16 education workforce in the region. The South West Centre for Excellence in Teacher Training (SWCETT) will act as a focus for Initial Teacher Training (ITT) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for teachers and other staff working with post-16 learners.

Over the past three years two separate Centres for Excellence in Teacher Training (CETTs) worked in the region to encourage member organisations to raise the quality of training for teachers in post-compulsory education. The SWitch and Peninsula CETTs, funded between 2007 and 2010 by the national funding body for the sector, the Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS), have between them achieved excellent results in supporting high quality Initial Teacher Training (ITT) in the region. From April 2010 these two CETTs will merge to create one exciting regional partnership for the South West region – the SWCETT.

At a regional conference in Taunton on 29 April '10, members met together to celebrate their achievements over the past three years and to launch the new combined SWCETT. The SWCETT partnership, with more than 80 members, represents the broad diversity of organisations involved in post-16 education and includes members from Further Education, Higher Education, Workbased Learning (Training Providers), Adult & Community Learning, Offender Learning, Specialist Colleges (working with learners with learning difficulties and disabilities), Public Sector learning/training organisations and from the Third sector (voluntary & community organisations).

The new partnership will be co-ordinated by Learning South West, who have been praised for their successful leadership of the SWitch CETT over the past three years. CETT partner organisations are keen to come together to create a single regional centre and to continue working together across the sector to 'discover and promote excellence in teaching' within post-16 education and training.

Paula Jones, Chief Executive of Learning South West and SWCETT Manager, told delegates at the conference that she was thrilled with the success of the SWitch partnership model of working and its effectiveness in bringing together practitioners and organisations from different parts of the sector.

“Partners are to be commended for their high levels of commitment to teacher training and to the continued professionalisation of the workforce”, she commented, “by continuing to actively work together as a partnership covering the whole sector and across the breadth of the region, we can create a powerful voice for the post-16 workforce in the region at both regional and national level.”

END

Photograph:

From left to Right: Jean Kelly (Institute for Learning - IfL), Paula Jones (SWitch CETT) and Denise Summers (Peninsula CETT).



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Note to Editors

Learning South West is an independent charity based at Bishops Hull near Taunton. Find out more at www.learning-southwest.org.uk.