

## **FE to HE: Black Country University Technical College Higher Level Engineering Skills Credit Transfer Pilot**

**CATS Project Community of Practice Development Form: 07/12/12**

### **Achievements to date**

- Continuing dialogue with partners involved in the project
- New discussions with The New Engineering Foundation (NEF) who are able to provide guidance, support and assistance with project deliverables. Attended meeting with NEF 05/12/12
- Presented the CATS initiative, our project and CATS website at the AoC National Conference 21/11/12. All were very well received.

### **Problems/Challenges of developing CATS**

- Challenges continuing from previous CoP form:
  - Logistical problems of operating across educational institutions over the summer months
  - Recognition of the use of similar terms but with differing definitions across FE/HE (e.g. 'credit')
  - Curriculum assumptions made for project –based learning are impacted on by DfE decisions about Key Stage 3 curriculum (i.e. withdrawal of support for the Diploma)
  - Not a well-established understanding of the QCF or CATS in general
  - Additional research shows what universities practise in terms of CATS may differ in the detail from the overall policy.
  - Mobility of key contacts within organisations presents continuity problems
- New: the reactions of the funding agencies, Ofqual and Ofsted are impacting on considerations of the viability of qualifications development

### **Working across the FE/HE interface**

- No new issues identified working across the FE/HE interface.
- Final-year learners at the UTC will shortly be making their advancement choices. Analysis will be done of those wishing to enter employment, those progressing to university (Wolverhampton or others) and those undecided.

### **Working with other agencies**

- The New Engineering Foundation has registered an interest in the project. NEF is an independent educational charity and think-tank that supports the advancement of technical and scientific vocational education
- NEF will help to provide well-informed, up-to-the-minute and objective external advice

- NEF's will be able to ensure continuing employer relevance of the curriculum developed, as informed through their contemporary engineering employer networks and their strategic labour market intelligence; and to ensure that the evaluation provides useful and accurate reporting from which all the partners and participants can benefit

### **'Eureka' moments/Key learning outcomes for the project**

- NEF has a new project, branded as "T-Shaped Learning." This aims to marry technical knowledge and experience with transferable professional skills and transferable personal qualities ensure that the learner not only has the specific skills to perform a job, but also the transferable skills to progress and/or continue learning

### **Emerging themes?**

- The importance of Engineering as a key sector in UK economy recovery has been highlighted to us by a number of individuals and organisations in the course of the project work
  - The amount of curriculum time given to practical engineering skills in the context of higher courses is under consideration
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