Call for expressions of interest to participate in:

**Title: Collaborative Approaches to the Management of e-Learning (CAMEL):**

A Teaching and Learning Project funded by the Office of Learning, Enhancement, Access and Participation (LEAP) at the University of Greenwich.

**Background**

The University has provided £5000 match funding to support a project that will identify and promote effective practice in the management of ICT to support lifelong learning and assist Schools in developing local e-learning strategy. The project aims to develop a community of practice based around a series of one day study visits interspersed by online communication. The underlying philosophy is characterised as an open and honest commitment to share and collaborate together, with trust being an essential factor. The ethos of showcasing what we do, sharing effective practice and discussing issues, will underpin activity within the context of:

- a recently approved University e-learning strategy,
- the development of a University Teaching and Learning strategy,
- the development of School e-learning strategies
- the diversity of e-learning approaches adopted by Schools, Support Services and Partner Colleges
- the diversity of e-learning platforms and tools adopted by Schools, Support Services and Partner Colleges
- the successful funding by HEA of a University of Greenwich e-learning benchmarking phase 1 project (Sept 2006 start)
- an annual eLearning@Greenwich conference
- small scale funded e-learning projects

It would seem timely and very beneficial to work with colleagues across the University and a Partner College, to learn from one another’s rich experiences, develop effective practice in teaching and learning, raise awareness to the issues of integrating ICT in teaching and inform School/College e-learning strategy.

We are looking for expressions of interest from Schools, Support Services, and Partner Colleges that would like to take part in the project.

**Who should be involved?**

We would like to involve a core of three Schools and one Partner College that provide a range of e-learning and e-support practices within or to programmes and courses. The participating Schools and College should be committed to this as an exchange partnership and be prepared to host one visit and send representatives to each of three other visits. All University Schools, Support Services, and FE Colleges are welcome to apply.

**What are the selection criteria?**

We are looking for partners that can demonstrate effective practice in the management of ICT to support lifelong learning. At this point, it is most likely that there will be certain pockets of enthusiasts demonstrating particular practices rather than cohesive wholesale endeavors - we are interested in the effective use of information systems to support learners but this brings with it a range of issues relating to people, business processes and change so feel free to interpret the brief in a broad sense. If you can answer “Yes” to at least three of the following questions we’d like to hear from you:
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- Is this an achievement you and your partners are proud of and feel others can learn from?
- Are your ideas/methods/approaches transferable to other situations?
- Can you demonstrate practical, transferable results rather than a project outline or work in progress?
- Have you integrated a range of support systems to create some form of ‘Managed Learning Environment’?
- Can you show how the work ties into your institutional or local e-learning strategy?
- Are you able to explain clearly the costs and benefits of what you are doing?
- Could you convince sceptics that what you have achieved is worthwhile?
- Are you committed to sharing practice and learning from others?

What is the timescale for the project?

We will be arranging a start-up meeting at the Greenwich Maritime in early at which we will review the range of topics of mutual interest, design the format of the visits and plan the remainder of the project. Rough dates for the visits are:

- Visit 1 – November 2006
- Visit 2 – early spring 2007
- Visit 3 – late spring 2007
- Visit 4 – summer 2007
- Dissemination – May 2007

We hope to supplement the formal visits with a range of on-line discussions or conferences on topics of interest to the group. Dissemination at the Annual University Teaching and Learning conference and publication on the outcomes of the project will be expected in late 2007.

What are the benefits for participants?

The model has been tested this year with four FHE institutions in partnership with JISCinfonet, the Higher Education Academy (HEA) and the Association for Learning Technology (ALT) with significant results. We have found that the benefits of the project included a lot of knock-on effects from collaboration, such as

- The opportunity to ‘showcase’ effective e-learning practice and explore issues.
- The opportunity to learn from others facing similar issues and to obtain the input of a range of ‘critical friends’ to help your own development.
- The opportunity to understand the issues challenging both FE and HE sectors
- The opportunity to develop effective local e-learning and teaching & learning strategy
- The opportunity to contribute to a publication.
- Becoming part of a network or Community of Practice that can help support you in future developments.
- Match funding of £750 to meet the cost of hosting a visit and free travel to other visits.
What do I do next?

If you would like to take part in the project all you need to do is send an email to …… no later than Friday 15th September 2006 and tell us the following:

1. A little bit about your School, Support Service or College
2. Which aspects of your work you would like to showcase.
3. How you think you meet the criteria.
4. Your role in the institution. N.B. If you aren’t a senior manager we require confirmation from a member of your senior management team that your School, Support Service or College is willing to commit to the project and match funding.
5. An indicative list of the job titles and roles of the staff whom you expect to take part in hosting the visit and participating in the visits, one of whom should be clearly identified as the lead contact.
6. Your availability during September 2006 to attend the start up meeting.

We’ll let you know the outcome by September 22nd or soon thereafter.

Simon Walker
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