

Moving Forward – Update June 2010

About Moving Forward

Moving Forward is a university-wide initiative, which represents a coordinated institutional strategy for transition and progression and evidence-based practice which centres on partnership working between the Centre for Research in Lifelong Learning, the Caledonian Academy, all six academic schools, Learner Support, the Students' Association, Academic Registry, and Marketing and Communications.

Mini CoPs

The mini CoP meetings provide a platform for members of staff and students to engage with each other across the schools and support departments and, thus, enhance communication and the sharing of practice. They also offer staff development opportunities and, therefore, encourage more staff engagement with processes of change. At the last round of mini CoP meetings; the focus of was the announcement of the Moving Forward Development Funding Awards, which are discussed in more detail below. A 'what's next' lunch time event is being held on the 10th June event at which members can explore ways of taking things forward in the next academic session.

Moving Forward Development Funding Awards

We have been delighted to be able to introduce the Moving Forward Development Funding Awards in February of this year. This involves the allocation of small sums of money to motivate staff and students to become engaged in supporting transition into and through the university, for instance supporting the implementation of the GCU Transition and Progression Framework, within the six Moving Forward Mini CoPs and within Schools and Departments, including Learner Support and the Students' Association.

There has been a good response to the awards and the successful recipients have now been informed. We hope to be able to showcase some of the ideas in mini CoP meetings and through a possible seminar series. The successful projects are as follows:

- **School of Health:** Blogging placement - the development of reusable learning objects for transition and induction to the placement environment
- **School of Engineering and Computing:** Supporting Adult Learners make the transition to HE **and** The Application of Science and Reporting
- **School of Law and Social Sciences:** www.youemploy.me: Employability E-Forum for LSS
- **School of Life Sciences:** Induction Microsite
- **Caledonian Business School:** Supporting Progression in a Connected Digital Age
- **Learner Support:** Building resources for integrated induction
- **Students' Association:** Effective Service Provision for Part time Students
- **Student Empowerment Mini CoP:** GCU Culture: bringing together the students at GCU
- **Preparation and Induction Mini CoP:** Pre-induction Resource Hub

Partnership Agreements

The Moving Forward team have been meeting with senior management in all six Schools, Learner Support and the Students' Association to work towards developing partnership agreements with Moving Forward. The aims of the partnership agreements are to maintain and enhance partnership working in order to support the implementation of the GCU Transition and Progression Framework in conjunction with the LTAS and other relevant university policies. Moving Forward/CRLI will provide expert advice and support to school-based and Learner Support staff on ways of addressing transition, progression and retention issues. It defines roles and responsibilities for both, the Moving Forward team and their partners (academic schools, Learner Support, Students' Association).

The negotiations are underway and the academic schools are currently in the process of identifying key priority areas, ways of communication, and participation in school activities together with Moving Forward. The partnership agreements offer a long-term, sustainable approach to improving transition, progression and retention as well as student engagement.

Comparator HEIs

Moving Forward are having discussions with comparator HEIs in the UK, Denmark, USA and Australia to develop future collaborative research as well as a benchmark for evaluating the impact of Moving Forward

Collaboration

In addition to undertaking Moving Forward activities, we are actively involved in research within CRLI and we have recently contributed to joint mapping exercise of pre and post entry support and guidance for articulating

students that we were undertaking in CRLI in liaison with GGAP and Learner Support. Moving Forward continues its collaborative relationship with all its stakeholders.

Website

The Moving Forward website is currently being updated and we look forward to introducing our new website shortly.

Conferences

Part of the MF objectives are to disseminate our findings as widely as possible. In the last few months we have either attended or presented/ran workshops at the following Conferences:

- West Forum Conference – February 2010
- Enhancement Themes conference – Workshop session March 2010
- Class Rep Conference, GCU – March 2010
- European First Year Experience Conference 2010 – May, Antwerp, Belgium – Inspiration Session May 2010
- Hitting the Ground Running Symposium, GCU – Paper session June 2010

For further information:

Contact: movingforward@gcu.ac.uk

Moving Forward Website -

<http://www.academy.gcal.ac.uk/movingforward/index.html>

Moving Forward Weblog:

<http://caledonianblogs.net/movingforward/>