



## Taking forward change in technology-enhanced education: a cascading workshop and conference for institutional stakeholders



Strategic thinking regarding the role of technology in teaching, learning and administration is a key priority for institutions as they aim to address increasing diversity in the student population, the challenge and incorporation of web 2.0 and other emerging technologies into teaching practice, reaching new markets, managing achievement and retention, and embracing new models of curriculum design.

National policies and reports (including the JISC 'Higher Education in a Web 2.0 World' publication, and the HEFCE Strategy for e-Learning) provide our institutions with much guidance and food for thought as to how we address the above, and there are excellent initiatives underway across the sector. Yet despite this there remain challenges and unresolved issues in how to best take forward technology-enhanced education within our institutions, with key decisions to be made around the most effective strategies for staff development, learner engagement, and meeting institutional objectives.

'Taking forward change in technology-enhanced education' aims to help close the gap between the wider debate around what technology can offer our institutions, and how to most effectively harness technology in ways that are sensitive to the specific needs of institutions.

Taking a cascading workshop approach to doing this, institutional teams of four people comprising:

- A senior manager/strategist
- A lecturer
- A technology specialist
- A learner

are invited to register to attend one of the following regional workshops in March 2010 (dates tbc):

- Bolton
- Edinburgh
- North Wales

Working within and across institutional teams, each of the regional workshops will explore strategic, technological and pedagogical issues, allow opportunities to share good practice and experience, and to hear from guest experts. A pre-conference online learning activity will prepare participating teams by focusing on an examination of current strategic documents and their relevance to institutional contexts.

A key part of the workshop day will involve devising a set of actions including conversations to take forward in your own institution. All the participating teams from the regional workshops will then be asked to come together for a concluding one day participative conference to be held in June 2010. Conference proceedings will be published in a journal special issue.

Following the concluding conference, there will be an opportunity for participants to comment on and contribute to published outputs that will be intended to capture the key messages coming out of the workshops and conference to share with the wider sector.

'Taking forward change in technology-enhanced education' is funded through JISC. A full call for participation will follow in November 2009. To register your initial interest in participating please contact Mark Johnson, University of Bolton [mwj1@bolton.ac.uk](mailto:mwj1@bolton.ac.uk) or Keith Smyth, Edinburgh Napier University [k.smyth@napier.ac.uk](mailto:k.smyth@napier.ac.uk).