

Fifth International Blended Learning Conference
“Developing Blended Learning Communities”

Wednesday 16th – Thursday 17th June 2010
The Fielder Centre,
University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, UK

Conference Announcement and Call for Papers

Blended Learning Unit
Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

The University of Hertfordshire's Blended Learning Unit and the UK Higher Education Academy, with contributions from the University of Calgary and the University of Queensland, are delighted to announce:

**The Fifth International Blended Learning Conference:
"Developing Blended Learning Communities"**

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The importance of developing a community to support learning is a well established idea. The virtual and physical learning spaces we build, as well as the ways in which we engage our students, are increasingly being influenced by our desire to create and support a learning community. The Fifth International Blended Learning Conference aims to explore the notion of community in its variety of forms.

You are invited to submit proposals/abstracts relating to community. Suggested themes include,

- Developing blended learning communities to support and enhance different aspects of the curriculum, e.g.
 - Employability
 - Internationalisation
 - Lifelong learning
 - Learning that lasts
 - Research Informed teaching
 - Student support and pastoral care
 - Study skills and personal development
 - The student experience
 - The student voice
- Developing a community of blended learning practitioners
- Extending the blended learning community
 - Within and across disciplinary groups
 - For pre-university entrants
 - With Alumni
- Theoretical perspectives on blended learning communities

This year the main keynote will be given by **Prof. Peter Bullen**, Director of the Blended Learning Unit at the University of Hertfordshire.

On Day One we will be linking up with colleagues at the University of Calgary to hear a presentation on their approach to developing blended learning communities and to share ideas and Day Two will include a live link-up with the University of Queensland.

The two days of the conference will see a mixture of presentations, discussion sessions and workshops with a Gala Dinner on the evening of the 16th June.

Last year we were again fully subscribed so book early to ensure your place.

Some comments from 2009:

“This was an exceptionally well organised and stimulating event”

“Gave me lots of inspiration and reignited the passion”

“The virtual classroom was fantastic, very engaging and innovative”

For further details and online registration, please visit: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/blu>

Call for Research Papers, Case Studies, Workshops & Posters

The conference committee invite the submission of contributions for the Fifth International Blended Learning Conference. Contributions are sought on a range of topics around developing blended learning communities. These might include, but are not restricted to: supporting and enhancing different aspects of the curriculum, developing a community of blended learning practitioners, extending the blended learning community and theoretical aspects of developing blended learning communities. We would particularly welcome submissions from students telling us about their expectations and experiences.

Submissions fall into three categories:

- 1 Presentation - a 20-25 minute presentation at the conference followed by discussion. Selection will be made from initial submission of an abstract. We encourage you to submit a research paper of unpublished, original work or a case study (2000 - 4000 words) before the conference. This will undergo peer review to be included in the proceedings.
- 2 Workshops - 1 hour workshop sessions. Selection will be made from submission of an abstract summarising the objectives of the workshop and the proposed activities.
- 3 Poster/Virtual Poster – Selection will be made from initial submission of an abstract. A research paper of unpublished, original work or a case study (2000 – 4000 words) may then be submitted for peer review to be included in the proceedings. Virtual posters must be submitted as a single PowerPoint slide or single PDF sheet.

Contributions for all categories may include research, work in progress, small scale innovation and major development activity.

The closing date for abstracts in all categories is Monday 18 January 2010
The proceedings will be published with an ISBN number after the conference.
Copyright of individual papers, presentations and posters included in the proceedings remains with the author.

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