pioneers in partnership
Ambassadors for our enterprise culture

As University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) Faculty marks its 20th anniversary of working in partnership with local colleges, we have much to celebrate and much to be proud of.

It’s widely acknowledged that UPC has made a significant contribution to higher education throughout the South West. Offering vocational courses and Foundation Degrees to those studying outside of the main campus, yet with the resources, support and backup of the University, we have helped improve the lives of thousands of students across our region. UPC is at the heart of the South West, bringing together enterprising individuals with employers and higher education.

We have provided a valuable resource to local businesses, delivering qualifications in response to their demand, as the economy of the South West continues to change and evolve.

By offering students the opportunity to study in their local area, we have helped retain talent and overcome skills shortages, playing an important role in building a more prosperous South West.

As a Faculty within the University of Plymouth, UPC’s achievements have also enhanced the status of the University as a whole, boosting its reputation for Widening Participation and harnessing the talent of students from all walks of life – many of whom will also go on to study for Honours Degrees and postgraduate qualifications. Our links with business have also underlined the University’s mission to be the enterprise university.

As a pioneer of higher education in further education, we have won plaudits at a national level for our achievements. From our modest beginnings with less than 500 students in 1989, with our partners, we have grown to become one of the largest and most respected networks of higher education in further education (HE in FE) providers.

In 2005, we became the only HE in FE organisation to be awarded a Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). The Higher Education Learning Partnerships Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (HELP CETL) is part of a national network funded to reward excellence in learning and teaching. An example of this work included our role in leading the 2009 Higher Education Learning Partnerships conference at Warwick, which brought together seven HE in FE partnerships.1

As we look back, we must also look forward. There are still many challenges to be met – both in our own region, which like many is dealing with the consequences of the economic downturn, and in the changing nature of higher education in this country. We are constantly developing what we offer for higher education students to make them more adaptable and employer focused by:

• continuing to develop the next generation of Foundation Degrees
• providing flexible business-focused continuous personal development including bespoke short courses
• offering specialist Honours Degrees
• providing increased opportunities for learners to progress to further study

1 www.help-cetl.ac.uk
I am confident that UPC will continue to evolve, in order to shape both the national education agenda and the regional economy over the next twenty years, as well as spreading our wings to forge partnerships internationally.

I hope that all of you will join with me in marking the achievements of the past and in looking forward to a bright and promising future for UPC.

Professor Wendy Purcell
University of Plymouth
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive

Our Partners are listed on page 27.
Innovation in education

As University of Plymouth Colleges (UPC) celebrates its 20 year milestone, it has much to be proud of.

Since 1989, UPC has been equipping higher education students throughout the South West for success in the wider world. We bring together individuals, businesses, colleges, schools and communities across the region and link them to the University of Plymouth, offering a wide range of students the opportunity to study for Foundation Degrees wherever their location and whatever their situation.

We recognise that not everyone can participate in study by spending three years on a university campus, and we reach out to students from all walks of life.

Meanwhile our students also benefit from the University’s depth of resources.

By bringing learning closer to home, working with our Partner Colleges we can ensure the needs of both employers and the local community are met.

So, whether it’s a mother from Penzance returning to the workplace, a school leaver from Lyme Regis pursuing a vocational choice, or a Barnstaple employee studying for a Foundation Degree with an accredited professional qualification while he works, we offer a flexible, modern solution to higher education needs across the South West.

As a wife, mother of two and a part time cover supervisor at Braunton School, I have certainly found myself extremely busy! The College really accommodated our needs as most people on our course had personal commitments and jobs. I really enjoyed my course at the College, met some great friends and am now about to start my third year at the University of Plymouth.

Emma Gooding FdA Theatre Company graduate, Petroc (formally known as North Devon College)
UPC’s success stories have been numerous. They, in turn, have contributed to the economy of the South West by bringing their skills and qualifications to the world of industry and commerce.

With core values of collaboration, partnership, and enhancement at our heart, since 1989 we have grown from a modest network of 450 students to become both a regional and a national success story. In the last six years alone, we have contributed to the education and professional development of around 45,000 students. As we grow, the resources and facilities within our partner network grow and develop as well.

City of Bristol College, for example, has recently opened a new University Centre at its Ashley Down site to accommodate increased numbers of students. The Centre, partially funded by HEFCE capital through the University of Plymouth, features 13 teaching rooms, all equipped with smart boards, three large teaching spaces each capable of seating 60 students, and equipped with the latest IT resources.

Peter Osman is a mature student in his mid 40s, returning to education from a business background. He is studying for a Foundation Degree in Marine Leisure Management at Falmouth Marine School – part of Cornwall College. Peter says:

“I wanted a change of career and to stop commuting. When I saw the different modules on this degree and the amount of time spent on the water, I knew it was the right course for me. Falmouth Marine School is a great place to study; it’s very personable and there’s a strong community atmosphere with small class groups. I’m really enjoying being back in education and gaining new skills.”

Peter has also become involved in college life as a student ambassador and mentor, and has been instrumental in organising and managing extra-curricular activities for his peers. Even with all his commitments in and outside the college, he attends three additional subject lectures each week to ensure he fills every spare minute at college with learning.
A local perspective

Today, our network of over 10,500 students studying on more than 300 programmes at 30 plus locations - from Bristol to Penzance and from Barnstaple to the Channel Islands – is supported by in excess of 1,800 academic and professional staff based in our Partner Institutions. UPC has become a widely respected partnership, bringing benefits to both the University of Plymouth and to the wider community.

The reach and capabilities of the UPC network continues to expand, with Strode College being the newest of our partners. From offering just one Foundation Degree to a handful of students in 2006, Strode’s enterprising approach has helped expand its current offering to three Foundation Degrees in niche areas to more than 50 students.

Likewise another Partner College, Truro and Penwith College experienced significant growth going from six to six hundred higher education students within six years; in 2009/10 circa one thousand students.
Our work makes a significant contribution to the efficiency of the University’s operation, as well as the nature and diversity of its offering. Examples of how UPC adds value to the University include:

• UPC increases the University’s reach, providing the opportunity for more students and employers throughout the region to access higher education.

• Many students are progressing to Honours Degrees and other awards at Plymouth and within the partnership. Nearly 500 students progressed from Foundation Degree courses to other University of Plymouth courses in the 2006/07 academic year. In 2009/10 over 850 students progressed (an increase of 73.9%).

• UPC provides close ties with businesses and other organizations across the region and supports the University of Plymouth’s growing reputation as the enterprise university.

• UPC can boast high levels of student retention and Widening Participation.

• UPC acts as a testbed for new courses and subject areas.

• UPC is a lean and efficient operation, employing small numbers of staff relative to our student base. As our partnership has grown, we have been able to benefit from economies of scale, for example developing effective support for staff development and blended learning.
Supporting the South West region

Our region faces plenty of economic challenges. We have a widely dispersed, semi-rural population, few large enterprises, and a predominance of small businesses.

By equipping local people with the skills and qualifications required by employers, UPC has helped to boost industry in the South West by responding to employer and market needs.

At Estover Community College for example, their nationally acclaimed FdA Sound and Music Technology course has already won the badge of ‘Suitable for Industry Needs’ from recording industry bodies the Association of Professional Recording Studios and the Music Producers Guild. Students have full access to Deep Blue Sound, a multi-million pound studio complex in Plymouth incorporating 12 state-of-the-art recording studios, specialist IT music facilities, a live music venue and an independent recording studio.

UPC Foundation Degrees offer the chance to study programmes combining both vocational and academic components close to home, helping our region retain highly skilled people of all ages.
Some of our innovative course developments include:

- **Rural business management including specialisms in organic farming, equitation, veterinary nursing and veterinary practice management**
- **Animation and creative media**
- **Archaeology**
- **Computer games design and software development**
- **Hospitality and beach resort management**
- **TV production and media make up**
- **Renewable energy technologies**
- **Sports including tournament golf**
- **Fashion design and promotion**

UPC’s achievements are not only limited to our region. We are also a recognised national leader\(^2\) in the regional development of higher education in further education, and one of the largest partner college networks in the country.

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\(^2\) QAA [2006] Collaborative Provision Audit report, University of Plymouth
The management hub, or nerve centre, of the University of Plymouth’s relationship with its Partner Colleges is somewhat unusual, in that it is a Faculty of the University. UPC provides its partners with focused points of contact for all aspects of their work together for example by facilitating strong academic links between subject teams in the Partner Institutions and at the University. In essence, UPC allows Colleges' HE staff to work as members of a university faculty, with all the benefits that status brings. UPC is a faculty of strength, with over 10,500 students in 2010 studying at 18 Partner Institutions.

The UPC Faculty has enabled thousands of learners, often geographically isolated, to benefit from university-level education. Cornwall College, states in its HE strategy that the partnership with the University extends beyond that of a validating HEI, as working together includes partnership within the Combined Universities in Cornwall initiative, the South West Lifelong Learning Network (SWLLN), the Aimhigher Peninsula Programme and in South West RDA collaborations.

Key features of UPC include:

- Registered University Teacher (RUT) status for staff, which allows full access to the University’s intranet and a wide range of staff development/CPD activities
- Subject Forums, which deliver subject specific staff development activities and events, and act as a medium to share good practice and encourage collaboration
- Subject Forum Chairs, who act as academic links between the University and academic staff in Colleges
- Strong links for students between the University of Plymouth Students’ Union (UPSU) and Partner College student bodies, via UPC-funded student union officers and a full-time member of staff
- Strategic investment, including the work of the Higher Education Learning Partnerships Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (HELP CETL).

HELP CETL

The CETL is part of UPC and is a five-year project funded through HEFCE to build on, promote and enhance good practice in teaching and learning across the UPC network. HELP has delivered a number of strategic initiatives which Partner College staff can feed into. An important one is the Award Holders Scheme, which funds and supports research and scholarly activity. These are given to help staff to develop projects and their own academic practice. The CETL works to encourage and support communities of practice and subject forums. The aim is to enable staff to participate in the network in order to enhance the student experience and provide opportunities for personal and professional development.

³ HEFCE [2009] Supporting higher education in further education colleges: Policy practice and prospects’ (HEFCE 2009/05)
A blueprint for 21st century education

UPC is a unique vehicle enabling the University of Plymouth to realise its regional development strategy.

Together, the partnership achieves more than the University or our partners could achieve alone. It is a collaboration that enables the University, Partner Colleges and employers to provide a truly regional network for access to HE, progression, and Continuing Professional Development; it is a regional infrastructure for lifelong learning. In short, UPC is a truly 21st century network – a local innovator, and a national pioneer.

The HELP CETL has funded 17 regional video conferencing centres that aid communication and reduce UPC’s carbon footprint.

In addition a regional repository has also been established to host HELP CETL outputs, UPC resources and materials from related programmes or activities, such as the South West Lifelong Learning Network (SWLLN).

Sustainable futures

Somerset College is one of the largest and most long-standing of UPC’s Partner Colleges. Specialising in Arts and Design and Health and with a national and international reputation for excellence demonstrated by the success of its students and graduates, the college has opened up great opportunities for the development of higher education in Somerset.

Education for Sustainable Development is a key feature of programmes at the college. Not only has it been embedded into the teacher training programme but is being explored in different ways across the curriculum.

Having the Genesis Centre on site with its regional focus on sustainability, as well as the Business Centre with its conference facilities, the college is able to link entrepreneurship and sustainable development.

4 http://uplace.org.uk:8080/dspace/
Our journey

A section of the UPC timeline

1989
- Merged institutions form Polytechnic South West
- Step change in HE in FE

1990
- New curriculum areas
- Wide range of courses
- Dartmouth Royal Naval College CertHE accredited by Polytechnic South West
- Polytechnic South West rolling out HNDs working with every FE in Devon and now Cornwall

1992
- University of Plymouth created with degree awarding powers
- Social Science CertHE and on island teaching certificate set up in Jersey

1993
- Partnership commended in institutional audit by HEQC

1994
- University of Plymouth receives Queen's Anniversary Prize for a highly successful partner network
- Increase in NHS provision
- Link with Brunel College established
- University ceases HND teaching
- Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) established
- First Cornwall College degree ceremony
- Validation of BSc (Hons) Health Studies; incorporating clinical modules delivered in NHS trusts

1995
- Formation of Cornwall College

1996
- The 'Flying Faculty' delivered lectures for a DipHe in Jersey

1997
- Tor & South West College of Health (which subsequently became 1998 part of the University as the present Faculty of Health and Social Work)

1998
- Plymouth College of Further Education (later City College Plymouth 2007)

1999
- Partnership commended in institutional audit by HEQC

2000
- Project 2000 initiative: Undergraduate degrees in Nursing - with delivery at college sites
- Award of HEFCE FDTL (3) SPAT project
- University of Wisconsin Colleges model was influential
- Rational for a new Faculty established from (UPC) including launch of UPC brand and logo
- Support for dispersed academic communities
- Uniform QA approach
- Strengths/Weaknesses assessment

2001
- QAA report commended Universities collaborative activities with partner institutions
- Launch of Foundation Degrees including regional and national evaluation

2002
- New VC very supportive of HE in FE

2003
- University of Plymouth wins HEIST award for launching the University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty
- University of Wisconsin Colleges model was influential
- AMI collaborative provision
- National HE in FE partnership confers approach to partnerships
- Development of subject fora to promote HE in FE research and scholarly activity
- UP sub-brand and Faculty HEIST award for launching the University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty

2004
- First UPC member of staff to be nominated for a National Teaching Fellowship

2005
- University of Plymouth wins HELP CE TL
- QAA collaborative provision
- Audit commends UPC systems

2006
- New VC continues support for UTC approach to partnerships

2007
- End of HELP CE TL

2008
- Truro College and Penwith College merge to form Truro and Penwith College (later Petroc 2009)
- North Devon College and East Devon College merger

2009
- First UPC member of staff to be nominated for a National Teaching Fellowship

2010
- National HE in FE partnership conference in Warwick

1989
- HMS Dryad, HMS Seahawk (RNAS Culdrose, HMS Collingwood, HMS Drake)/Courses subsequently combined in Royal Maritime Warfare Training School
- Bicton College
- Plymouth College of Art and Design (partnership dissolved 2003)
2003
- Rational for a new Faculty established from Strengths/Weaknesses assessment
- University of Wisconsin Colleges model was influential
- Proposals on:
  - Branding
  - Uniform QA approach
- Support for dispersed academic communities
- Launch of the University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty (UPC) including launch of UPC brand and logo

2002
- New VC very supportive of HE in FE

2004
- University of Plymouth wins HEIST award for launching the UPC sub-brand and Faculty
- Development of subject foci to promote HE in FE research and scholarly activity

2005
- Award of the HELP CETL

2008
- New VC continues support for HE in FE partnerships
- First UPC member of staff to be nominated for a National Teaching Fellowship

2007
- Dean of UPC leaves for the Chief Executive role with CUC after almost 20 years developing the Plymouth approach to partnerships

2009
- National HE in FE partnerships conference in Warwick

2010
- End of HELP CETL
Learning along the way

UPC was founded on, and operates within an ethos that values collaboration, partnership, and enhancement. Throughout our history, we have continually proven that true collaboration is the pathway to success. The benefits of such an approach are manifold:

- UPC allows our partnership to speak with one voice – so that we are more powerful and influential at regional and national levels.
- Together, colleges are more able to bid for and win funding.
- UPC also co-ordinates research across multiple bodies, with the flexibility to help with smaller, targeted projects and the expertise to initiate and execute large pan-partnership programmes.
- Our strong relationships with our partners are built on trust and consistently deliver significant growth within individual colleges, bringing positive benefits for local areas and communities.
- We can share knowledge and best practice between all parties in the partnership, and use our network to try out new ideas and ways of working. We identify areas where we can make a difference – and we do.

Working together

At Petroc (formally known as North Devon College and East Devon College), students have benefited from a collaborative initiative between lecturing and support staff designed to help them develop independent learning skills using the wealth of information resources available to them. Following CETL research, Amanda Isaac, a dedicated member of staff within the college’s Learning Resources department, created a series of workshops to help students get more from their learning outside the normal teaching curriculum. The workshops have demonstrated to students that lecturing staff value the input of Learning Resources and have encouraged the development of information search skills across all courses.
A model for Success

UPC has come a long way since 1989, and can today proudly claim to lead the way for college partnership networks.

Today UPC stands at the forefront of Higher Education in Further Education. With over 10,500 students at more than 30 Partner College campuses across the South West, we’ve attained local and national recognition, both for ourselves and the University of Plymouth. We have been commended for the range and quality of our offerings, and for the partnership success we have achieved in working with regional businesses and local communities.

It’s an approach that’s typified by our partners at the City of Bristol College, where their FdA Theatre Media Performance runs from within the Tobacco Factory – a Bristol based theatre, and the FdA Dance Theatre Performance which runs from the Bristol Community Dance Centre. Both these local community venues give students unique opportunities to experience and engage with real work environments.

UPC’s way of working has become a blueprint for others. Thanks to our rigorous and transparent quality assurance processes, which are scrutinised at a national level, we set the standard in our sector for collaborative and partnership working.

We’re involved in the development of national policy for HE in FE, and we are regularly consulted by Ministers, other universities and other partnerships.

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5 QAA [2009] Institutional audit (hybrid model): University of Plymouth key findings letter highlighted good practice in the management and organization of University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty and in particular its enhancement functions, for example the way in which it has incorporated the work of the Higher Education Learning Partnerships Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (HELP CETL)
Synergies in practice

Our business model embraces collaboration at every level, not only between the University, our Partner Colleges, employers and communities, but also between the colleges themselves. Such inter-college co-operation improves service provision and brings a greater choice of learning opportunities for students.

Over the past two years, the UPC archaeology network of Truro and Penwith College, City College Plymouth and Strode College have been working together to create a series of workshops, conferences and fieldwork opportunities involving both staff and students. In particular two conferences were sponsored by the South West Lifelong Learning Network (SWLLN), which brought local, national and international speakers and presenters from the worlds of professional and academic archaeology to our colleges.

Yet there is still much to achieve. Our key strategic aims include:

- Widening participation in HE by providing high quality, vocationally focused and locally based provision.
- Broadening the range of subjects available at HE level in the region.
- Developing and delivering a flexible and responsive portfolio of Foundation Degrees and specialist courses.
- Acting as the University’s main focus for part-time and work-based delivery across the region.
- Developing, together with other faculties, courses that the university alone could not otherwise provide.
- Contributing to the University’s commitment to regional development.
- Developing and promoting new and innovative approaches to the delivery of HE in FE.

Tertiary colleges within outreach networks are sometimes accused of being parochial, with limited ambitions for their students. In our case, we continue to demonstrate that we are dynamic, forward thinking colleges, and that we provide our students with training and networking from the local to the global.

Dr Caradoc Peters Programme Leader of the BSc (Hons) Archaeology, Truro and Penwith College
Moustraining Ltd was established by the University of Plymouth to deliver The University Certificate in Business Office Information Systems (Cert BOIS) under the guidance and control of UPC. Cert BOIS is a part-time distance learning programme designed to help people in work develop their IT skills.

It is the largest part-time, higher education, IT distance learning programme in the UK, and Moustraining’s growing reputation in the development of e-based courses has resulted in the company’s appointment to lead new web-based initiatives for universities in Australia.

With initial funding from the ‘University for Industry’ to support 800 students, the programme is now recognised as one of the most successful of its kind, now supporting 950 students.

However, it’s not just about targets and mission statements. On a daily basis, we are improving lives all over the region – whether it’s encouraging a mother back to work after a 10 year gap, or enabling a local farm manager to study for professional qualifications. We provide many incentives for students to stay and study in the South West, and thanks to UPC, local businesses can educate their employees in the skill sets necessary to compete and thrive.
Anna’s career takes off

In 2003, after completing a two year AVCE Business studies course at South Devon College, Anna Howard decided to remain at the College to continue studying and in 2007, completed a Foundation Degree in Business. Anna chose to progress to Somerset College to complete her final top-up year, resulting in a BA (Hons) Degree in Business Administration.

Anna comments,

“I chose to remain local to complete my degree as my ultimate aim was to secure a job at Flybe, a local employer and therefore, it didn’t make sense to leave the South West. I also felt that choosing a Partner College, rather than a University would benefit me as there tends to be smaller class sizes, allowing far better communication between student and lecturer.”

Upon completion of her degree, she secured a five month work placement with Flybe - Europe’s largest and most successful regional airline. Based in their Training Centre, Anna is largely involved in the marketing and promotion of Flybe’s new Training Academy (due to be completed in 2010).

A partnership between Flybe, Exeter College and the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter, has led to the creation of new Foundation Degree courses designed specifically for the airline industry.

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“...These critically important new Foundation Degree courses have only been made possible by the willingness and close co-operation of the key partnerships forged with the eminent educational institutions involved. They mark yet another landmark achievement not only for Flybe but also for the aviation industry as a whole.”

Simon Witts, Director of Safety Quality and Training, Flybe
UPC students in the region benefit from:

The new Higher Level Skills Centre will form a flagship for the South Devon College campus. The £8.9 million project has been supported by the South West Regional Development Agency and the Higher Education Funding Council for England and is a focus for the college’s expanding number of students and degree courses. With a student social area, extensive lecture and conference facilities, flexible teaching space, a research centre and an ideas lab for business start-ups, the four-storey building is designed to enable students to experience a unique higher education environment, engaging with lecturing staff and local employers.

The new facility will also incorporate a Higher Level Skills, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Centre, an Enterprise Research Centre and ‘ideas lab’, all designed to help students on vocational courses to succeed in the real world.

Access to University of Plymouth services and resources, including its Library and web-based resources and guides via the University’s student portal.

The opportunity to play an active part in the University of Plymouth Students’ Union (UPSU). UPC supports a dedicated, full time, staff member (UPSU Partner Colleges Co-ordinator) and the elected full time, sabbatical UPSU Deputy President. UPC also funds seven part time UPSU College Representatives – all UPC students elected by their peers.

We plan to improve student lives further by:

• Delivering small group, student-centred learning and teaching that enhances retention.

• Developing innovative modes of programme and module delivery to provide for the needs of part-time and work-based students.

• Providing enhanced access to learning resources.
Stimulating the University

We are broadening what the University of Plymouth has to offer, cementing its engagement with the community, helping it meet government educational aspirations and attracting a wider pool of students to its courses. The numbers of students progressing from Foundation Degrees to the University of Plymouth to complete their Honours Degrees is growing year on year.

Progression from University of Plymouth Foundation Degree courses to other University of Plymouth courses (Undergraduate, Postgraduate and CPD).

Source: University of Plymouth Corporate Information reports
The South West is changing, and the demands of local employers are very different from those of 1989. We have seen the rise of new industries, such as organic farming, renewable energy or Bristol’s burgeoning design and animation community, which need new skill sets. There are flourishing new businesses and tourist attractions, such as The Eden Project and Rick’s Stein’s gourmet empire in Padstow, which now register high on the national radar. Extensive regeneration of our cities, including Plymouth itself, is also underway.

We will continue to ensure that we meet the demands of the South West’s employers. We are currently developing cross-partnership links in areas such as land-based industries, health care practitioners, public services and small business development. On the educational front, we are a major player in the development of the Combined Universities in Cornwall (CUC) initiative, which aims to address one of Cornwall’s most serious problems – the exodus of talented young people from the area because they were unable to study locally.
Over the coming months and years, we will be extending our collaboration and growing our partnerships – regionally, nationally and internationally.

Our existing relationships with international partnership networks such as the University of Wisconsin Colleges and California Community Colleges will be developed along with initiatives like our collaboration with the Chinese Agricultural University, where Accounting and Finance students study their first year in China, the second at City College Plymouth (to obtain a Foundation Degree), before going on to complete their final year at the University’s Plymouth Business School to achieve Honours Degrees.

City College Plymouth won the Institute of Financial Accountants’ Top Centre of the Year award in 2009 in recognition of the FdA Accounting and Finance course. There was further cause for celebration after 23 Chinese students were awarded first-class Honours Degrees from the University of Plymouth in the class of 2009.

One student, Ge Wu became top of the class and was awarded the Francis Clark prize for best BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance student.

I am so grateful to the tutors at City College Plymouth who gave me such a wonderful year. I learnt so much useful knowledge of accounting and finance that gave me a great advantage in competing with the other students at the University of Plymouth.

Ge Wu, University of Plymouth graduate

Many of our current initiatives are already putting building blocks in place to meet the challenges of the future, for example:

- developing staff communication across the network with the use of 17 new sets of videoconferencing throughout the region.
- improving our environmental and sustainable credentials, by using our network to promote carbon reduction across all our Partner Colleges.
- developing sub-regional strategies – especially in response to the changed landscape of HE provision in the east of the peninsula.
- encouraging staff in other University of Plymouth Faculties by sharing good practice in increasing and managing student progression from Partner Colleges to final year courses at the University – for example through the use of Subject Forums.
The road ahead

UPC has very clear ideas about its future and how it can continue to play a key role in helping shape higher education in the South West.

In the meantime, we continue to listen to questions, comments, and suggestions from all our stakeholders. Dr Colin Williams, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean of the University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty invites you to share your comments and suggestions by emailing upc@plymouth.ac.uk

Our five year goals include:

• working with Sector Skills Councils, local employers and the South West Regional Development Agency to offer a comprehensive portfolio of Foundation Degrees, delivered either full- or part-time or in modular short courses.

• improving and innovating the Foundation Degree model, with more work-based learning, including incorporation of employers’ continuing professional development, and with the embedding of professional awards and qualifications wherever possible.

• working proactively with the University and with SW Peninsular Aim Higher to recruit more students from under-represented groups.

• supporting strong, well resourced ICT linkages between the university and our college partners.

With the help of our partner colleges, businesses and the University of Plymouth, the UPC students of the next twenty years will have access to a host of exciting new courses, facilities and ways of learning. And we will continue to reach out to even more potential students and enable them to enrich their lives through education.
North Devon continues to develop as an area in which tourism and the arts and crafts play major economic roles. In 2008 and 2009, Petroc (formally known as North Devon College and East Devon College) hosted highly successful forums attended by providers and supporters of the visual arts in the region to establish networks and directions for possible collaborations.

One of the main outcomes of the forums is that students at the college are now able to supplement their work-based learning by contributing to events during the month long North Devon Festival, helping to generate an annual £11 million turnover and attracting over 180,000 visitors each year.

For any business staff CPD is essential in two ways. Firstly is the added value to the business and secondly is the development of the individual. With that in mind the Level 5 Certificate of Professional Development seemed ideal for buyer/manager Owen Smith who wanted to expand his knowledge of leadership and human resource management in particular. As a tutor at South Devon College I was also able to support his studies during his working day at Harbour Sports in Paignton. The collaborative approach to personal and business development is a huge step forward and hopefully something that local entrepreneurs will see as an increasing resource.

Frank Sobey, Director of Harbour Sports, Part-time Lecturer and Programme Co-ordinator for short courses and management at South Devon College
Colleges:

1. **Bicton College**
   - www.bicton.ac.uk

2. **Bridgwater College**
   - www.bridgwater.ac.uk
   - Bridgwater Centre
   - Cannington Centre

3. **City College Plymouth**
   - (formally known as Plymouth College of Further Education)
   - www.cityplym.ac.uk
   - Kings Road Centre
   - Goschen Centre

4. **City of Bristol College**
   - www.cityofbristol.ac.uk
   - Ashley Down Centre
   - College Green Centre

5. **Cornwall College**
   - www.cornwall.ac.uk
   - Cornwall College Camborne
   - Duchy College Rosewarne nr Camborne
   - Duchy College Stoke Climsland nr Callington
   - Cornwall College Newquay
   - Cornwall College St Austell
   - Cornwall College Saltash
   - Falmouth Marine School

6. **Exeter College**
   - www.exe-coll.ac.uk

7. **Highlands College** (Jersey)
   - www.highlands.ac.uk

8. **Petroc**
   - (formally known as North Devon College and East Devon College)
   - www.petroc.ac.uk
   - Barnstaple
   - Tiverton

9. **Somerset College of Arts and Technology** (Taunton)
   - www.somerset.ac.uk

10. **South Devon College** (Paignton)
    - www.southdevon.ac.uk

11. **Strode College** (Street)
    - www.strode-college.ac.uk

12. **Truro and Penwith College**
    - www.trurocollege.ac.uk
    - www.penwithcollege.ac.uk
    - Truro College
    - Penwith College

13. **Weymouth College**
    - www.weymouth.ac.uk

Schools:

14. **Estover Community College**
    - (Plymouth) (students also taught at Deep Blue Sound recording studios)
    - www.estovercollege.plymouth.sch.uk
    - www.deepbluesound.co.uk

15. **John Kitto Community College**
    - (Plymouth)
    - www.jkcc.org.uk

16. **Treviglas Community College**
    - (Newquay) www.treviglas.net

Other organizations:

17. **Moustraining Ltd**
    - www.moustraining.uk.com

**Royal Navy**
- www.royalnavy.mod.uk
  (HMS Drake and HMS Collingwood are not shown on the map on pages 2-3)
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