



**Key Note Speakers for the 3rd Annual Widening Participation
Research Centre Conference.
14th – 15th April 2010.**



Dr Helen May
Senior Advisor
Higher Education Academy

Key Note Presentation:
Strategies for institutional change to embed equity and inclusion in HE

The concept of equity is a little used term in HE but conveys a desire to eliminate discriminatory policies and practices to enable the full and active participation of all students into and through higher education. For this to happen, there needs to be a move away from separate policy and practices that support specific student groups towards the principles of inclusion being embedded into all policies and practices and across all institutional functions as part of the ongoing enhancement of quality.

This presentation will begin by considering the principles of inclusion and then briefly explore the case for institutional change drawing on the various drivers that are promoting inclusion in higher education. It will go on to focus on strategies that institutions can use to bring about inclusive policy and practice, highlighting the approaches and experiences of a range of institutions who have participated in one of a series of developmental programmes facilitated by the Higher Education Academy.



Kerri-Lee Krause (PhD)
Professor and Director
Griffith Institute for Higher Education
Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

Key Note Presentation:
Strategic approaches to student engagement in higher education

The notion of “engagement” has attracted much interest in higher education in recent times. Important questions have been raised about strategies for dealing with apparently “disengaged” students, and whether there is any value in doing more or different things in an effort to enhance student engagement. This presentation will explore some of these issues after providing a brief overview of the state of play in the student engagement arena. It will challenge the idea that engagement in higher education is a simple one-size-fits-all notion, focusing particularly on implications of the widening participation agenda for engagement practices. The importance of staff engagement will also be explored as part of an emphasis on whole-of-university strategies to encourage partnerships in the learning process.



Professor John Storan
Director of Continuum
Professor at UEL

Key Note Presentation:
"How are institutions doing at mainstreaming equity? Learning from the Widening Participation Strategic Assessments"

In June 2009 all HEIs and directly funded FECs in England submitted widening participation strategic assessments (WPSAs) to the HEFCE. Each WPSA included a broad range of information covering its institutions WP strategic aims and objectives, A related programme of activities and also the measures the institution is taking to widening participation to HE opportunities. Action on Access was asked to undertake a meta-analysis of these WPSAs and report on this. The analysis developed identified a range of trends and questions which will be discussed during the presentation in order to further explore issues relating to the mainstreaming of equity in HEIs.