



# press release

For immediate release : 18 June 2009

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## **Middlesex University and specialist training providers launch MODNet partnership to develop business, career and Work Based Learning opportunities**

Opportunities for business and career development took a major leap forward last month, when Middlesex University and its 11 college, education and training partners signed the MODNet partnership agreement, formally launching the Middlesex Organisational Development Network. MODNet partners include Barnet College, Enfield College, Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute and several other north London education providers. MODNet will be managed by Middlesex's Institute of Work Based Learning. It will focus on providing learning and development programmes to address employee and employer needs in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The MODNet partnership signing ceremony took place at the University's Hendon campus, in the impressive Rickett Quadrangle. It was attended by over 150 guests from Middlesex University, from partner organisations and from local and national businesses. The Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Brian Coleman, also attended.

Middlesex University's Institute for Work Based Learning has already worked with many of its partners for some time, and the MODNet partnership now formalises the collaboration. Substantial funding towards the MODNet initiative was awarded by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England). Additional support and expertise from within Middlesex University means the MODNet partners' work with the business community can be expanded to provide more specialist skills training and development, from Certificate level right through to Professional Doctorate level.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University, Professor Michael Driscoll, opened the event, outlining the development and achievements of the University in Work Based Learning and professional education. He also spoke about the outlook for the future, where MODNet will enable the University to play a leading role nationally in the development of workforce expertise and organisational development.

Director of the Institute for Work Based Learning, Professor Jonathan Garnett, then spoke about MODNet's ambitions. He explained that the experience and expertise of the MODNet partner organisations, coupled with Middlesex's established history as a Work Based Learning provider and its innovative University Accreditation Scheme, means employers can rely on a high quality partnership to help enhance their organisation's productivity and performance. "MODNet is centred on the learning and development which employers judge as crucial to their business success", Professor Garnett said. He stressed MODNet's commitment to meeting the learning and development needs of individuals and employers. "This is groundbreaking work which I firmly believe will transform employers' expectations of high level educational providers", he added.

Professor Garnett described the work the MODNet development team has done in strengthening existing links with business. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry has acknowledged Middlesex's Institute of Work Based Learning as leaders in the field, and has recommended Middlesex as a preferred provider to all its members. He also spoke about the role of the University Accreditation Scheme, which evaluates employers' own training programmes, and is a key component of building partnerships – demonstrating to businesses that they already have expertise which they can capitalise on and develop.

Work Based Learning can play a crucial role in helping businesses maximise their employees' potential. Brian Sutton, Managing Director of Learning4Leaders, studied for a Professional Doctorate through Work Based Learning, and subsequently introduced Work based Learning to his own organisation. He spoke about his experiences as an employer, and encouraged all businesses to explore the organisational benefits of Work Based Learning. London Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Martin Riddell, who is also Chief Executive Officer of Storm Consultants, gave his perspective of how Work Based Learning can support and meet the needs of businesses across the region.

Professor Garnett concluded by saying: "Middlesex is rapidly becoming a key provider of high level learning to the maritime, franchising and driver education sectors, and was also recently recognised as the Chartered Institute of Educational Assessors' preferred higher education partner to work on postgraduate awards schemes for workplace educational assessors. A new range of Work Based Learning initiatives is under development, with employers working with us on the design of programmes and in some cases engaging in delivery and assessment – these are exciting times!"

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Margaret House, added: "We are delighted to be expanding opportunities with our local partners and other specialist learning organisations to meet the needs of business across the UK'.

To find out more about Work Based Learning and its role in helping businesses develop, go to [www.mdx.ac.uk/wbl](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/wbl).

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **1. Photo caption:**

Professor Michael Driscoll, Vice-Chancellor of Middlesex University, signs the MODNet partnership agreement.

Please contact Lucy Jones, Press Office, tel: 020 8411 5093 / email: [L.E.Jones@mdx.ac.uk](mailto:L.E.Jones@mdx.ac.uk), for more information and additional photographs.

2. The MODNet signing ceremony and launch took place on 21 May 2009, in the Rickett Quadrangle, Middlesex University.
3. MODNet strategic partners are:
  - Barnet College
  - City of Westminster College
  - CONEL – College of North East London
  - College of North West London
  - Consalia
  - Enfield College
  - The Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute
  - Harrow College
  - Middlesex University
  - OPPS Developments
  - QA
  - Southgate College
4. HEFCE, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, promotes and funds high-quality, cost-effective teaching and research, to meet the diverse needs of students, the economy and society. For more details, go to [www.hefce.ac.uk](http://www.hefce.ac.uk).
5. MODNet and business:

The MODNet partnership will offer learning and development programmes which are co-designed with employers. MODNet will also offer a range of services to business, including accreditation of in-company training.
6. For more details about Work Based Learning, go to [www.mdx.ac.uk/wbl](http://www.mdx.ac.uk/wbl)
7. For more information about Middlesex University, go to [www.mdx.ac.uk](http://www.mdx.ac.uk).