

## **Workshop 2**

### **Session's theme: Students for students**

**Paper number:** 43

**Presenters:** Kerry Bellamy, Chris Wright

**Presenters' Organisation:** University of Wales Newport

**Session's chair:** To be announced later.

### **Session title: Enhancing connected peer support outside the classroom**

#### **Abstract:**

An individual student experience is fast becoming as much of a focus for applicants as the course they are intending to study. As a result, institutions are faced with the need to ask themselves just how much of that experience takes place outside the lecture hall. With the social, emotional, financial and academic pressures of a new life today's student has a significant mountain to climb as they pick their way through their student journey.

At the University of Wales Newport, we have established a network of Student Partners who work alongside our academic and support staff in a number of specialist roles and focus on the enhancement of the student experience outside the classroom. With over 400 students working within this structure we believe that we offer an extremely effective peer-to-peer support system, which not only supports the students as they adjust to student life, but also provides colleagues with an opportunity to really understand what is happening for our students.

Our framework encompasses a number of schemes overall but in particular our Student Mentors and Nightline schemes have received recognition of best practice from both the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) who safeguard quality and standards in UK universities and the Matrix Quality Mark, which offers organisations a unique quality standard to assess and measure the quality of their advice and support services.

With student interactions across these schemes increasing significantly year on year, we feel confident that we have the right mix of student centred provision in place that supports students before they arrive, empowers them from enrolment and walks alongside them offering a safe place to explore their personal and academic development for their entire student journey. This workshop seeks to offer attendees a practical opportunity to learn more about the work being carried out at Newport through case studies and portfolios.