Scholarship, Engagement and Employability in College Based Higher Education: The students’ perspective

A video case study

Please also view the video case study.

The college higher education (HE) experience can be quite distinct to a more traditional university setting. College HE campuses are often smaller than university settings, cohort student numbers tend to stay in double figures, teaching staff often teach further education (FE) and HE courses and may know HE students from their entry-level programmes of study (Lea 2016). Notably, at the University Centre Scunthorpe we have discrete HE facilities and staff who are appointed to HE roles, we have been able to develop our infrastructure to really develop scholarship and staff/student partnerships; this is a distinguishing factor for us and not typical of college HE. These specific college HE qualities combined with our distinguishing college HE setting have created a sense of community and belonging, facets of the student experience widely understood to serve student retention and success (Thomas 2012). In our experience they also offer an environment where ambitions can be borne, nurtured and expanded (Johnstone et al, forthcoming).

The University Centre Scunthorpe (UCS) puts into play scholarship, engagement and employability (SEE) activities to raise students' aspirations and encourage them to achieve to the best of their abilities. This model has given rise to the UCS ‘Aspirational Lens’. Developed by the college Director of HE, Steve Johnstone, the aspirational lens captures quite neatly the underlying ethos of the UCS: the student learning experience motivates, defines and drives everything we do (Johnstone et al, forthcoming).

Caitlyn Lindley and Jenny Lawrence.

Caitlyn Lindley is a Year 2 student currently studying BA (Hons) Social Science degree at the University Centre Scunthorpe, North Lindsey College (at the time of the video being produced Caitlyn was a first year student). As the Higher Education Outreach and Engagement officer she has responsibility for raising aspirations of HE within the local community and to raise awareness of the University Centre’s presence in Scunthorpe and the courses it has to offer. Caitlyn previously attended John Leggott Sixth Form
College to undertake her A Levels, after gaining her GCSE's at Queen Elizabeth High School, Gainsborough.

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References
