
Education is not to reform students or amuse them or to make them expert technicians. It is to unsettle their minds, widen their horizons, inflame their intellects, teach them to think straight, if possible.

Robert M. Hutchins

Welcome to the Twelfth edition of Connect Learning Gazette – learning and development resource dedicated to Union Learning Reps.

As always we value your feedback. If you do have any feedback and/or you come across any interesting information that you would like to pass on, please email info@connectlearning.org.

What's New?

Learning Revolution is here

The official Learning Revolution site has now been launched, and anyone looking for opportunities to learn something new during the Festival of Learning is encouraged to visit it.

Event organisers can add to the calendar by using the form on the site - and by doing so will be publicising their events to the whole country. Organisers can also download materials to use to promote their events using the Festival of Learning branding.

Learning Revolution website: <http://learningrevolution.direct.gov.uk/>

Policy Information on Learning Revolution can be found on Department for Business, Innovation and skills website: <http://www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution>

New report from the Learning and Skills Network

During fringe events at this year's party conferences, LSN launched "Beyond Leitch: Skills policy in the upturn". This is the first research report to come out of their new independent think tank, the Centre for Innovation in Learning. It analyses how the skills system has coped with the changing needs and pressures brought about by the recession, what lessons can be learned and whether the system can be more flexible and effective in driving the economic upturn.

Download the report here: <http://www.wired-gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/ifi/DNWA-7WKEYV>

28 European companies now commit to bring more women into the tech industry

The European Commission has welcomed the growing commitment by Europe's tech companies to attract more women to the information and communication technologies (ICT) industry. The Commission also launched the European Directory for Women in ICT - a new online tool that will bring together all information on activities and jobs in the EU related to women and ICT. e-skills UK is one of the signatories.

To find out more information, visit

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1489&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

Directory for Women in ICT:

<http://www.ictwomendirectory.eu>

On the Couch with e-skills UK

New National Occupational Standards for IT and Telecoms now available

New national occupational standards (NOS) for IT & Telecoms have been approved October 2009, and will replace the previous standards.

NOS define the competencies which apply to job roles or occupations, and provide an industry-recognised framework that underpins training, development and qualifications for IT & Telecoms professionals. They are developed by e-skills UK in consultation with employers and are kept up-to-date to reflect the needs of the sector.

The qualification structure guidance and assessment strategy documentation based on these new NOS is being finalised in line with the Qualifications and Credit Framework and will be available within the next 6 to 8 weeks.

To find out more about the new standards, visit www.e-skills.com/nos.

Spread the Word

What skills make people marketable in a recession?

With record levels of unemployment and competition amongst jobseekers, CIPD wanted to find out what skills and attributes make people marketable and stand out from the crowd in the current economic environment.

Find out more:

http://www.cipd.co.uk/research/skills_marketable_recession.htm?wa_src=email&wa_pub=cipd&wa crt=strapline_strapline_none&wa_cmp=cipdupdate_230909

The right skills to boost your pay packet unveiled

According to new research, techies working in IT management should consider brushing up on their outsourcing expertise: those with skills in that area make the best paid IT management workers with an average



annual salary of £58,791. That's on average £1,001 more per year than techies boasting skills in consulting and business services - the next best-paid set of IT management workers with an average annual salary of £57,790.

Read more on which skills to brush up:

<http://management.silicon.com/careers/0,39024671,39529888,00.htm>

What Is Out There?

Livemocha offers free language courses online for free but it also connects learners with foreign language partners around the world. There is also handy language test on ten languages including Russian, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.

Find out more about Livemocha <http://www.livemocha.com/>

