

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/January 2020

Hello.

For many of our members, January will be a time to think about taking up a new challenge as it's traditionally a time for new starts and making resolutions. That could mean getting to grips with a new skill or hobby or, for some, making a career change.

Whatever new challenges our members undertake, learning will be central to their success. So here's to a wonderful 2020, where we continue to inspire and support UNISON members in whatever challenges they take.



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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BOOK YOUR PLACE AT THIS YEAR'S COLLEGE SEMINAR

Further education (FE) college staff have the chance to think about their own development, meet like-minded colleagues and discuss building the union at this year's College Staff Professional Development Seminar in March.

But if you haven't yet booked your place and would like to take part, it's time to put the wheels in motion as the deadline for applications to attend closes next month.

The 2020 programme includes workshops to aid your own professional development and grow the union.

The seminar will also feature panel discussions and informal networking opportunities, so that participants

will have plenty of food for thought to take back to their workplaces.

The annual seminar is such a hit with participants that many of them sign up to return every year to connect with members and reps in the sector.

"I first attended the seminar back in 2017 as a rep: I was so stunned, there were so many people there, it was exciting, they got me really enthused, and basically I've attended every year since," says East Midlands rep Yvonne Costello.

● Online booking closes at 5pm on Thursday 20 February 2020. To find out more and book your place click **here**

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



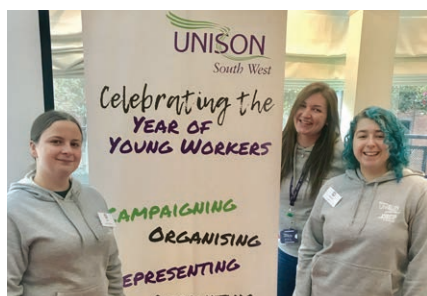
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Young members

Young members in the south-west boosted their confidence, learned about their rights at work and put together their 2020 public transport campaign at the region's very first young members weekend in November.

Workshops on employment rights, self-confidence and campaign and video messaging went down very well with the 11 participants, most of whom had never played an active role in the union before.

The core activity was designing their 2020 campaign Fares Fair?, which highlights how the high cost of transport means many young people struggle to get to and from work.

"It's really great to have more young members play an active role in the union and it was such a positive weekend," says South West Young Members' Lead Charlie Woods. "A few wanted to become stewards and nearly all of them now want to become more involved in UNISON, so by the end of the weekend we had a more active and engaged group of young members in the region."



Drama lessons

More than three dozen members of Birmingham branch took part in a unique workshop examining the barriers disabled people face in work and social settings on the International Day of Disabled Persons in December.

Held in the theatre at Birmingham Library, the workshop was led by Hubbub Theatre Company, an integrated ensemble of learning disabled and non-disabled performers, and Face Up Theatre, who specialise in running workshops to inspire social change.

The core of the workshop was a set of short scenes examining what happens when employers fail to remove barriers to disabled people's full participation in the workplace. After each scene, the performers led discussion of the issues by the workshop participants.

"A creative, interactive piece of theatre was not something anybody in the room had experienced before, so that was different in a good way for people," says Birmingham Branch Union Learning Fund Officer Donald McCombie, who organised the event in partnership with the branch disabled members' self-organised group.



ROY PETERS

Water agreement

UNISON and its partner unions signed a refreshed version of its learning agreement with north-west water provider United Utilities at the end of November.

The original lifelong learning agreement, which was signed four years ago, aimed to help staff access core skills development via a range of different routes by creating more opportunities for staff to increase their knowledge and develop new skills.

"This joint commitment by trade unions and the employer will see an increase in learning opportunities for staff," says Regional Learning and Development Organiser Lyndsey Marchant.

To coincide with the refreshed learning agreement, a new range of courses in core skills has been launched to help staff improve their English, maths and IT skills.

● **UNISON's Branch Guide to Lifelong Learning** includes a guide to the key elements of a learning agreement to help ensure you cover all the bases when negotiating with employers. You can also find a full model agreement with notes on the Organising Space **here**.

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