

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

Name of project and institution

Future You, Kent and Medway Progression Federation

Brief Description

Created specifically for FE students to address potential barriers that may prevent them from considering HE, Future You is the flagship outreach programme for FE Colleges in Kent and Medway. The programme equips students with the knowledge, tools and confidence to make proactive choices about their future. From the onset it was a collaborative venture, led by KMPF with input from three partner universities and two partner colleges. First delivered in 2017, 3843 students have accessed Future You, in FE, Schools and community settings. Each year 50% of students agree that taking part has encouraged them to apply to HE.

Why has this project been nominated

Future You is the flagship outreach programme for FE Colleges in Kent and Medway. It was designed to enable students to develop their self-awareness, equipping them with the knowledge, tools and confidence to make proactive choices about their future. Consisting of six interlinked sessions it aims to facilitate students to think broadly about their future, whilst removing barriers that may prevent them from considering HE. The programme creators identified that many FE students have well-articulated possible selves outside of HE, which may affect their likelihood to progress. In response, KMPF worked with Canterbury Christ Church University, the University of Kent, the University for Creative Arts, EKC Group and MidKent College to design a programme of shared expertise for students to reframe their possible selves. Future You was first delivered on-masse in 2018. Each cohort had a lead member of FE staff, with three sessions delivered by HE outreach teams. The programme was positively received but operational logistics proved challenging as an ongoing commitment. For 2019 FE Colleges requested training for their staff. Train the Trainer programmes have now been delivered in all colleges in Kent, with 55 staff being trained to deliver the programme. FE Colleges are often underestimated in terms of the value they add to widening access to HE, yet social mobility is intrinsic within their foundations. The response from the FE sector to the Future You programme is testimony to the fact that Colleges embrace opportunities for their students to develop, and reach, their aspirations.

How long has the project been running

The project is now in its seventh year. The pilot (Version 1) was delivered in December 2017. Versions 2 and 3 were piloted in Spring 2018. Version 4 commenced in September 2018 with in depth programme evaluation. Version 5 commenced in 2019 and finally reviewed to create the final version. Version 6 (a toolkit) has been delivered since September 2021.

Number of participants for each year of the project's operation

In 2017/18 Future You was piloted with 38 students (3 groups) In 2018/19 Future You was delivered to 762 students (41 groups) In 2019/20 Future You was delivered to 646 students (45 groups) In 2020/21 Future You was delivered to 489 students (32 groups) In 2021/21 Future You was delivered to 779 students (48 groups) In 2022/23 Future You was delivered to 826 students (59 groups) So far, in 2023/24 Future You was delivered to 491 students (34 groups) In total 3843 individual students have engaged with the Future You Programme across FE Colleges, schools and community settings.

More details

<https://kmpf.org/schools-and-colleges/kamcoppprogramme/future-you/>

