

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Initiative (Outreach) Award

Name of project and institution

Literacy and Oracy – Storytelling Programme, University of West London

Brief Description

The University of West London's (UWL) Literacy and Oracy – Storytelling Programme is a dynamic outreach initiative that harnesses the power of narrative to foster inclusivity and engagement in higher education. Led by an experienced storyteller and outreach practitioner, the project's innovative approach empowers students from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences and learn from experts, enriching the academic community and promoting a culture of empathy and understanding. UWL's commitment to storytelling reflects its dedication to widening access and participation through transformative educational practices – our programme amplifies the voices of children and young people and inspires academic success, personal growth and supports their aspirations.

Why has this project been nominated

The University of West London's (UWL) Literacy and Oracy – Storytelling Programme is a dynamic outreach initiative that harnesses the power of narrative to foster inclusivity and engagement in higher education. Led by an experienced storyteller and outreach practitioner, the project's innovative approach empowers students from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences and learn from experts, enriching the academic community and promoting a culture of empathy and understanding. UWL's commitment to storytelling reflects its dedication to widening access and participation through transformative educational practices – our programme amplifies the voices of children and young people and inspires academic success and personal growth, and supports their aspirations. A unique aspect of this innovative storytelling programme is that we target underrepresented young people in mainstream and alternative education settings, working with teachers and professionals to ensure projects are well-attended and culminate in a celebration event. Designed to boost oracy, literacy, and self-confidence among 7-16-year-olds, each programme culminated in impactful showcases where students narrated stories in their own words.

How long has the project been running

Since January 2023

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

2400

More details

<https://www.uwl.ac.uk/study/teachers-and-careers-advisors>

