

Widening Access Throughout the Student Lifecycle

Martin Webster – Operations Manager
National Education Opportunities Network

Widening Access Throughout the Student Lifecycle



- National Education Opportunities Network
- Rationale for the book
- Summary of key themes

National Education Opportunities Network



NEON founded at the end of 2011

Vision:

Access to, and success in, higher education should not be related to social background but based on ability and willingness to participate.

Aim:

To empower and enable those with a commitment to widening access to HE to affect change in their institutions and communities

National Education Opportunities Network



- Steady growth in members (90 organisations)
- Access Academy suite of training
- NEON Summits
- Annual Summer Symposium

Rationale for the book

- A broadening of the ‘access’ debate
- Access is nothing without success
- NEON Summer Symposium 2016
- Widening Access Throughout the student lifecycle
- Attracted over 36 papers – researchers and practitioners
- Call for papers invited interest in being considered for publication
- 12 papers selected for inclusion in this collection

Themes

- Entry into Higher Education
- Supporting Retention and Success
- Progression after Higher Education
- Evaluating the Impact of Widening Access Work

- Young and Mature



What does the book tell us?

- Targeted approaches mainly with learners
- Small focused approaches – systematic fragmentation a result of access agreements
- Theoretical approaches to widening access are more well developed to explain outreach and retention than student success.
- The importance of a ‘whole institutional approach’ to widening access work.
- Horizontal approaches dominate – separate treatment of areas of the lifecycle

What does the book tell us?

- Vertical approaches needed
- Institutional ownership of the agenda
- Importance of networks to share learning so mistakes are not repeated.