

NEON Awards 2024 Nominations

Category

NEON Widening Access Partnership Award

Names of institutions involved in the partnership

University of East Anglia, The Heritage and Cultural Diversity Forum & Norfolk County Council's Higher Aspirations Scheme

Brief Description

The Heritage & Cultural Diversity Forum is a partnership of potential. Together we have an ambition to provide minority ethnic students opportunities to be heard, to question, and to challenge preconceptions of higher education, training, and careers through meaningful and relevant engagement. We collaborate to use our collective knowledge and expertise to expose, explore, and inspire aspirational futures for the young people we work with.

Why has this project been nominated

The Heritage & Cultural Diversity Forum is a partnership of potential. Together we have an ambition to provide minority ethnic students opportunities to be heard, to question, and to challenge preconceptions of higher education, training, and careers through meaningful and relevant engagement. We collaborate to use our collective knowledge and expertise to expose, explore, and inspire aspirational futures for the young people we work with.

The partnership connects three main partners; the University of East Anglia (UEA), Norfolk County Council's Higher Aspirations Scheme, and the Heritage & Cultural Diversity Forum. In addition to this, we reach out to our colleagues at Norwich University of the Arts, neaco (Uniconnect), and key supporters such as Norfolk Police.

The Forum was founded by a motivational and inspirational teacher who had the ambition to develop a supportive network of teachers, schools, organisations, and charities that all share a desire to see a fairer and more equitable society in which young people from minority ethnic backgrounds are inspired to reach their full potential.

This project is one of our most exciting developments within our outreach activities for ethnically diverse and global majority young people. We do not have the authentic lived experience within our team to deliver these activities alone, so we need to reach out to those that do. This is an excellent example of how higher education institutions can work in partnership to co-create outreach activities that are relevant and meaningful to the young people we work with.