Learning Technologist of the Year Award

The Association for Learning Technology's Learning Technologist of the Year Award celebrates and rewards excellent practice and outstanding achievement in the learning technology field.

Now in its seventh year, this award is open to individuals and teams. The awards were presented in Warwick at the 2014 ALT Conference on the evening of 2 September 2014.

Individual Award

Winner

James Pickering, Lecturer in Anatomy, School of Medicine, University of Leeds
@accessanatomy

James has created a range of learning resources using innovative technology to support student education. From podcasts to screencasts, e-lectures to eBooks, he uses technology so students around the world can fulfil their learning potential. All these resources are freely available and he has recently delivered a very successful MOOC.

Joint runners up

Jade Kelsall, e-Learning Technologist, University of Manchester Library *@jadekelsall*

The e-learning materials Jade creates are viewed as examples of best practice in online information literacy and academic skills teaching; her recent work on My Learning Essentials won a 2014 Blackboard Catalyst Award. She champions open education, promoting and advising on the effective use of e-learning within the library sector.

Jamies Kieft, eLearning and Resources Manager, Reading College *@james_kieft*

My challenge was to make learning accessible by students anytime, anywhere with any device. This was achieved with the introduction of Google Apps for education specifically Google + Communities, and Google sites as well as other web-based technologies that are promoted through my blog 'James thinks it's worth a look.'

Highly commended

Tom Andrew, ILT Development Coordinator, Aylesbury College *@tomandrewuk*

During his first year at Aylesbury College, Tom made an outstanding contribution to supporting and enabling learning through the use of technology. He implemented many key projects which directly impacted students and staff. These projects included a College App, Online Resources, Grade Tracking, eILP reporting, along with securing funding for a Maths and English NFC pilot.

David Hopkins, eLearning Consultant, Warwick Business School *@hopkinsdavid*

There are always keen and eager academics that want to try something new or push the boundaries of their own teaching practices: these are the active and vocal minority. It is important to balance this activity with contact, support, and engagement with those who are less active, less willing, and less able to develop their own practices. My approach and attitude in working with this silent majority remains the same, no matter who I work with: engage, encourage, and collaborate.

Matthew Homewood, Principal Lecturer in European Union Law and Learning and Teaching Coordinator, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University *@mjhomewood*

The Twittery Vision project used established digital technology to enhance student engagement in revision opportunities within the core EU law module at Nottingham Law School. Such enhancements to engagement were proven also to result in improved student outcomes.
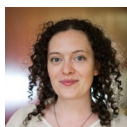
Team Award

Winner

The LearnTech Team, University of Northampton:

Rob Howe (Head of Learning Technology), Simon Thompson (Learning Technologist), Adel Gordon (Learning Technologist) – not present in team photo, Al Holloway (Learning Technologist), Iain Griffin (Learning Technologist), Belinda Green (Learning Technologist), Andy Stenhouse (Learning Technologist), Kieran McGovern (Learning Technologist) – not present in team photo, Geraldine Murphy (Learning Technologist), Rob Farmer (Learning Designer), Julie Usher (Learning Designer), Rachel Maxwell (Learning Designer), Rachel McCart (NILE Administrator) *@LearnTechUoN,* blogs.northampton.ac.uk/learntech/

Northampton's Learning Technology Team is a major force for positive change within the University, its academic partners and the sector. Its institutional role far exceeds supporting colleagues in the use of learning technology: the team fulfils an enabling role, critical to capacity building and scaling up Northampton's excellent provision.

Runner up (1)

The DigiLit Leicester Project Team, Leicester City Council and De Montfort University:

Lucy Atkins, Digital Literacy Research Associate, De Montfort University and Leicester City Council *@lucyjca*

Josie Fraser, ICT Strategy Lead, Leicester City Council *@josiefraser*

Richard Hall, Professor of Education and Technology, De Montfort University *@Hallymk1*

The DigiLit Leicester Project is a two year collaboration between Leicester City Council, De Montfort University and 23 secondary schools. The project aims to support, promote and develop the confident and effective use of technology, based on a model of professional development which supports teacher agency and collegiality, through pedagogically grounded self-evaluation.

Runner up (2)

The eTargets project team, ARK Bentworth Primary Academy (*@ARKBentworth)* and ARK Conway Primary Academy (*@ARKConway):*

Damian McBeath (Headteacher)

Lois Osborne (Assistant Headteacher)

ARK Bentworth and ARK Conway Primary Academies have developed 'eTargets', an exciting initiative that is successful in raising achievement in English. 'eTargets' provides an additional layer to the feedback cycle by enabling a teacher to assign a personalised online lesson, which empowers a pupil to immediately increase their understanding.

Highly commended

Red Balloon of the Air (Registered Charity No. 1138657):

Christine Perkins (Coordinator), Lee Royston (Director of Distance Learning), Piers Hartley (ICT & Science teacher & IT manager), Helen Gascoyne-Cecil (Maths teacher), Michelle Williams (English Teacher), Vicki Bunn (Administrator), Liz Cummins (S.Yorks Regional, mentor), Louise Miller (Essex Regional mentor), Sian Pinder (Online counsellor) *@RBoftheAir*

'Red Balloon of the Air' is an innovative 'next generation' online provision offering a unique online and face-to-face programme for young people who are unable to attend school because of anxiety or school phobia, often resulting from severe bullying. We respond to the academic, social and emotional needs of our students and, when they are ready, support their move back to mainstream education or into employment.

alt.ac.uk/ LTaward

#LTaward

Entries for the next Learning Technologist of the Year Awards open in 2015

Tips for entering from 2013 winner: Sheila MacNeill (Glasgow Caledonian University)

◇ Don't just think about it, enter the competition;

◇ Do think about entering a colleague(s);

◇ Don't leave it till the closing date to write your entry;

◇ Don't assume that judges will understand your context, explain with specific, easily understood examples and evidence what you have done/are doing. Highlight student/staff engagement and feedback;

◇ Don't be modest. If you are selected for an interview you have already proved that you are doing outstanding work, so take the opportunity to celebrate it, yourself and your contribution to the community;

◇ Do be incredibly proud of being shortlisted – the competition is tough.

Source: newsletter.alt.ac.uk