

NEWS RELEASE

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Shaping the future of higher education in Wales

Carmarthen-based lecturer Perminder Dhillon is hoping to help shape the future of Welsh university education following her recent appointment to the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

Perminder, who lives just outside Carmarthen, took up her three year appointment last month. She and her colleagues on the council have a key role to play in taking forward the Higher Education Strategy announced in March this year by Jane Davidson, Wales Assembly Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning.

Perminder is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Health at the University of Central Lancashire, where she works on health and ethnicity issues including research, teaching, equality training and production of learning resources. Working part of the week in Preston, she also spends some time in other parts of the UK working on specific projects.

She has extensive experience of working with the public, private and voluntary sectors on equality issues, and is hoping to contribute particularly to the debate on widening participation, which is one of the main themes driving the new HE strategy in Wales.

“This is an exciting time for higher education in Wales, as we aim to make Welsh institutions among the best in the world,” says Perminder. “The new strategy focuses on diversity and encouraging people from all backgrounds into higher education. I’m hoping my knowledge of equality issues, as well as my experience as a senior lecturer at the delivery end of higher education, will help me make a significant contribution to the work of the Council.”

Perminder, who is also a member of the Alcohol Education and Research Council, will be expected to commit around one and a half days a month to her new role.

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Notes to editors:

1. For further information contact Perminder Dhillon on 07703 125674.
2. The HEFCW was established under the provisions of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. It is responsible for the funding of all higher education institutions in Wales and has a budget of £327 million for 2002-2003.