



Breaking the mould for local youngsters

Teachers Elaine Lane and Michael Gregson have gone back to the classroom as part of an innovative new scheme to encourage their own students to enter higher education.

Elaine, who teaches at Whitehaven School and Michael, a lecturer at the Lakes College have been awarded Excellence Fellowship Awards, funded by the Department for Education and Skills. They will each be spending a term away from their pupils at the University of Central Lancashire Cumbria Campus, completing projects designed to help break down the barriers preventing local youngsters from non-traditional backgrounds to go to university.

The University of Central Lancashire has received £60,000 from the DfES to fund the scholarships and currently has four Excellence Fellows working with staff at the University and with local education institutions in Cumbria and Lancashire. All four Fellows will be talking about their research at a special event taking place at the Cumbria Campus, Newton Rigg on Thursday 12 June.

Michael, who is researching into the barriers preventing pupils from lower socio-economic groups applying to university, says: "Progression to University nationally is approximately 34% of those taking A Level type courses; in West Cumbria the % is approximately 19%; we need to find out why this is and do something about it".

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11 June 2003

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Note for Editors: The Excellence Fellowship Seminar will be taking place on **Thursday 12 June 2003 at the Cumbria Campus, Newton Rigg from 1.00pm to 3.30pm.** Please contact Pam Culley, Media & Public Relations, University of Central Lancashire, tel: 01772 894425, for details of photo opportunities and for further information.