**Researchers @ The Edge**

**The project brief**

The organisation of a one-day event at which those involved in the various REIF projects presented their outcomes to the wider University. The event showcased the various activities/projects being run by our enterprising researchers.

The event highlighted best practice in supporting and inspiring PGRs/ECRs to become more enterprising about their research. It also launched and publicised a number of longer term projects aimed at supporting an ‘enterprise and entrepreneurship eco-system’ at TUOS.

**Key impacts**

- Exposure to best practice
- Facilitated networking amongst those with a shared interest in enterprise
- Provided individuals with experience of presenting projects to a non-specialist audience
- Creation of a feeling of belonging to a peer group of enterprising researchers
- The establishment of a recognisable core of staff with an interest in enterprise
- Participant recognition from the PVC for Research and Innovation

**Outcomes observed**

- Networking among project leaders at the event
- Exchange of best practice
- Follow up collaboration (across projects, across participants)
- Raising the profile of researcher enterprise across the institution

**The legacy**

The day has left the following legacy for individuals:

- A reference point for the projects
- A reference point for measuring culture change
- Interest / momentum for enterprise initiatives
- Evidence that enterprise is taken seriously by TUoS
- Network for existing PGR enterprise practitioners (now a ‘voice’ at TUoS)
- Ideas for potential central initiatives for embedding enterprise in PGR provision
- Staff working in the area no longer feel they are a lone voice in the wilderness!

1st October 2013
As a showcase event, this day was by default costly. However, with a core of interested individuals there is now scope for development of a collaborative, university-wide approach to promotion and development of enterprising behaviours in PGRs and ECRs.

A group is currently looking at how TUOS can ensure that the momentum generated by the REIF projects is not lost to the University – see http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ris/ecr/reif ‘The Enterprising Road Ahead’.

Quotes and personal experience of the event

“It’ll help me to think outside the box about my research.”

“I am more likely to keep an open mind to commercial ideas during my PhD.”

“I will look for opportunities for greater impact.”

“I’ve had a change in attitude to enterprise companies.”

“The breadth of “Enterprise” was surprising but very helpful.”

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