by technicians for technicians

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from TechNet!

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Upcoming Events:
January 30th 2017

About TechNet:
TechNet was established in 2014 at the University of Sheffield. It is a new way for technicians to discuss, collaborate and improve the way they work.

- Meet up with other technicians to share ideas and solve problems
- Draw on the skills of technicians who can help make your job easier
- Join an online community to find new ideas and better ways of working
We are happy to announce the dates for next year's TechNet events, so please add these to your diaries for next year:

- Tuesday 30th January 2018, 12.30 - 1.45
- Friday 27th April 2018, 12.30 - 1.45
- Thursday 19th July 2018, 12.30 - 1.45

If you have any ideas for events or if there's something you'd like to see at one of our events, please get in touch with us at technet-steering-group@sheffield.ac.uk.

Our next event will be on Tuesday the 30th of January, 12.30 - 1.45 in the ICOSS room. We will be hearing from technicians from departments we don't often hear from - including AV, Creative Media and the Theatre Workshop.

Keep an eye out for more details on our events page and a signup form going out after Christmas!

Review: TechNet Event - Celebrating our technical staff
Our latest TechNet event was a celebration of our technical staff and saw the University honored with the Science Council's Employer Champion Award.

The event, which occurred on the 12th of October, saw Firth Hall packed not just with technicians but with senior university staff and visitors from other Universities - all with an interest in celebrating and recognising the important work done by the technical staff here at the University of Sheffield.

Natalie Kennerley, joint chair of TechNet kicked off the event by welcoming the 150 attendees to what promised to be an exciting 2 hours. Next the CEO of the Science Council, Belinda Phipps, spoke about the importance of technical staff being professionally registered before presenting our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Keith Burnett with the Employer Champion Award. This is awarded by the Science Council to institutions that have shown a commitment to recognising and helping develop their technical staff.

Professor Sir Keith Burnett, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, said: "It gives me very great pleasure to accept the Employer Champion Award, both as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield and as President of the Science Council. Both organisations are deeply committed to the vital importance of technical staff and to their development."

He added: "Our University is deeply committed to technical education and professional development and we recognise the vital importance of technicians to the future of scholarship and the UK. We know that to thrive in the future, we will need all the skills which allow us to discover and understand the world, to address its challenges and to create the wealth the nation will need in the years ahead."

Next, Terry Croft presented the Apprenticeship awards and the Professional Registration certificates to some of our technicians. A full list of awards presented can be found below.

Sir Keith then spoke about the importance of the role of the Science Council in providing quality assurance system for scientists and also thanking Terry Croft, Director of Technical
Development and Modernisation, for all his work in Sheffield. Sir Keith also emphasised the need for training of technical skills and the risk of these skills being lost if we do not support our technicians training and development. He emphasised that professional registration is a big achievement and shows the value of our technicians.

Next Tracy Wray, Director of HR and Communications gave a brief overview of how the apprentice scheme is supported at the University.

After a short break for lunch Kevin Oxley, joint chair of TechNet, introduced the five technician speakers who told us all about their careers. First up was Frank Fletcher, the Engineering Technical Team Leader, who has been at the University for 44 years. Next Linda Kay, a Research Technician from Medicine, Dentistry and Health, talked about her career including her authorship of many papers and talks at academic conferences.

Andrew Metcalfe was up next and he spoke about his varied role as a Teaching Technician in Biomedical Science. Not only does Andrew's role encompass the duties of a Teaching Technician, but he also organises work experience placements for school pupils and showed us some impressive feedback about their role in encouraging interest in scientific careers and further study in science subjects.

Andrew was followed by Helen Wright, a Bioengineering Teaching Technician, from the Diamond. Helen told us about her responsibility for the labs that she teaches in as well as her outreach activities and the wide range of disciplines she is involved in.

Last up was Mark Ariaans, the Lead Resource Technician from Medicine, Dentistry and Health. Mark spoke about his varied role which includes (joint) line management of the IICD core technical team, departmental safety officer and biosafety officer and lots more besides.

These presentations were followed by a few impromptu words from the Faculty of Science PVC Professor Nigel Clarke. Nigel spoke about the importance of technical staff to the smooth running of the faculty and their important contributions to ensuring high levels of excellence in teaching and research.

In his closing statement, Kevin thanked all of the day’s speakers and congratulated all of the award winners, as well as the 150 people that had come to the event.

There was also an exhibition of posters showcasing technical staffs work from across the University, from work on virtual reality to Oncology and the Drosophila Facility.

**Apprentices who received awards:**
- Aaron Kirby - BMS
- Anthony Hodder - BMS
- Scott Weston - BMS
- Kieren Howarth - Engineering

**Professional registration certificates awarded:**
- Eleanor Markham - RSci
- Frank Fletcher - RSci
"A fantastic event - great to see so much engagement."

"Excellent support from higher levels."

"Really impressed by this event - it's given me a lot to think about when I go back to my own Uni."

Find out more about the event:
https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/news/sheffield-technicians-event-staff-1.739062

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/sheffield-university-employer-award-1.737595

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Technician Events 2018

IST Conference 2018
20th September, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle
Keep an eye on the IST website for more information coming soon

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Science Council news and events

At the start of December, leading health charities, higher education organisations and science campaign groups came together to tell government a post-Brexit immigration regime must ensure the UK can continue to recruit highly trained technical staff. Read more on this story on the Science Council blog 'International Technicians Vital For UK Science and Innovation'.

WorldSkills UK and Middlesex University put out a call to industry to support the launch of a new Life Science ‘Laboratory Technician’ Competition and you can find out more about the competition here.
Read about the £96 million invested into new 'Superlabs' planned for the University of Leeds to drive engagement with industry.

News from the Technicians Make it Happen Campaign

Listen to a new podcast on 'Scientists not the science', featuring two technicians from King's College London talking about their roles and Michelle Rea from Gatsby talking about the Technicians Make it Happen campaign.

Find out more information and listen to the podcast here

Have you heard of HEaTED?

HEaTED is the leading provider of professional development and networking opportunities for all disciplines of the technical workforce. We offer support for technicians through networking events, CPD and resources. Register on our website for free, and discover how we can help you: www.stem.org.uk/heated.

Events:
14th March 2018, King's College London:
Generating income with technical facilities and services

17th May 2018, National STEM Learning Centre, York
STEM apprentice and technical career conference

Leading your Technical Team / Building your Leadership Skills

The IST are now taking bookings for the following two programmes:

Leading Your Technical Team
Building on Your Leadership Skills
Date: 22nd & 23rd March 2018
Times: Start 09.30 close at 16.00 Day Two
Venue: Halifax Hall, Sheffield (http://www.halifaxhall.co.uk/)

The IST have announced that the Leading Your Technical Team programme consisting of the Leading Your Technical Team and Building on Your Leadership Skills courses will now be offered through the IST. The Leading Your Technical Team programme has a long and well respected history. It has been running for 30 years with more than 1,200 technicians having been through the programme over this time. The programme content has continued to adapt and develop in line with changes in HE and it continues to be held in very high regard by HE senior managers and staff developers. Its high reputation is maintained through delivering a very high standard of technical management training via experienced HE managers, in a practical context with the reality of managing in a university technical environment.

The courses which are geared toward delivering the fundamental and key skill elements for leading and managing people, particularly in a technical team. Both programmes follow a similar format, in that the learning is enhanced through informal and highly participative sessions that include active discussion, exchange of ideas and delegate group work.

Each programme is delivered in the context of a higher education environment, but is not aimed at any specific job role or discipline. Participants are from a very broad range of higher education institutions, and from a very diverse range of academic disciplines and departments or service sections.

Further details and booking form

Nominations for 'Recognition Corner'

We would like to make ‘Recognition Corner’ a regular feature in the newsletter. This is a place where you can nominate your colleagues for something they have achieved or you think they deserve recognition for. This can be anything from success in a particular project to always having a positive attitude. Maybe your colleague went out of their way to help you work a bit of equipment? Or you’ve noticed they are passionate about teaching their students? Then you could make sure their contributions are acknowledged publicly in the TechNet Newsletter!
To nominate a colleague, just send in their name, email address, department and a short paragraph on why they deserve recognition. Please send these to Natalie Kennerley at nj.kennerley@sheffield.ac.uk or Kevin Oxley at k.m.oxley@sheffield.ac.uk

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### Have you joined the TechNet forum yet?

Sign up to the TechNet forum, introduce yourself and help build a community of mutual support for our Technical staff. For help getting started, use our Forum guide. We would also like to capture your ideas on what you want to get out of the forum. If you would like to give us your feedback, please complete this short survey Improving your forum experience.

Know technicians at other universities? Get them to join the forum too, so we can connect technicians across the UK.

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### TechNet is your network, your newsletter and your forum - tell us what you want!

Please email us your ideas for future events or for features for the newsletter, we would love to hear from you! Contact us at technet-steering-group@sheffield.ac.uk

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Our mailing address is:
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