

‘Casting’ a Firm Foundation for New Curriculum Development

13th June 2008

The WYLLN's Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related industrial Chemistry Sector have recently been working in partnership with the Institute of Cast Metal Engineers (ICME), Cast Metals Federation (CMF) and a range of employer representatives to investigate the possibilities for the development of a new Foundation Degree award in Casting Methodologies / Technology.

Led by Richard Brown, Programme Manager within Bradford College's Engineering Department and Dr Paul Denton, the WYLLN Sector Officer; a Foundation Degree Development Group has been created to better understand industrial skills needs for this unique, exciting and employer-driven opportunity. Working in partnership, the Development Group have been reaching out to wider industry employers to develop a work-based curriculum that would significantly enhance the supply and relevance of educational provision within this industrial segment of the Sector.

Supported by Pam Murrell (ICME), David Critchley (CMF) and Derek Hurley (Bradford College), a range of initial meetings have been kindly sponsored by Nick Newby, Development and HR Director, at Newby Foundries, with the outcome of a high-level course framework being developed. Employer workshops and further industrial consultation have now been planned to further refine and validate the structure and the delivery method of the qualification, prior to a proposal to the WYLLN for curriculum development support.

Paul commented, 'The segment has seen many structural changes over recent years and it is anticipated that this Lifelong Learning activity will, help raise individuals' recognition of the industry as one which is leading in innovation; and stimulate demand from employers for higher level education and skills. Casting stakeholders place considerable importance on the quality and development of their workforce and, to this end; they invest and encourage, ensuring that they have sufficient competent staff, adequately trained for both existing and long term needs. It is anticipated that a new degree could be launched within 2009-10'.

Photo: (Left to right)

David Critchley: Cast Metals Federation
Paul Denton: WYLLN Sector Officer
Steve Smith: Newby Foundries
Richard Brown: Bradford College
Nick Newby: Newby Foundries

