2il Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

2nd Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

16 Mis Medi – 18 Mis Medi| 16 September – 18 September 2014

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

Roundtable Discussion: Using Technology to Support Distance Learners and Deliver Their Learning Content in Innovative and Engaging Ways

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How can we exploit and promote the leading research of our university and maximise access to HE for non-traditional learners across Wales and globally? Distance learning (DL) delivered via technology is often suggested as one solution for engaging learners and widening access. However, DL provision has challenges to address and distance learners have barriers to overcome. This session aims to explore how technology-enhanced learning can be used to:• overcome challenges and barriers to learning faced by distance learners • engage students who are not physically on campus with cutting-edge research and theory The session will explain some principles behind successful distance learning and is designed for both DL practitioners and those thinking about offering DL for the first time. It will offer examples of how various technologies are used to support and deliver distance learning by two internationally renowned departments: 1. Department of Information Studies, Aberystwyth University - with over 25 years’ experience of designing and delivering innovative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and academic programmes by distance learning: from single 5-, 10- and 20-credit CPD courses to full honours degree and Masters programmes. These programmes pilot and use VLE platforms, multi-media, and online technologies to deliver and support learning to approximately 800 distance learners in one department. 2. The Advanced Training Partnership (ATP) in IBERS Aberystwyth University (with Bangor University and NIAB-TAG) is a new online postgraduate distance learning course, funded by the BBSRC, delivering cutting-edge research findings to professionals in the beef, sheep, dairy and agri-food industries. The programme uses videos and podcasts (of lectures, interviews with leading researchers, and laboratory techniques), interactive study guides and workbooks, and online student forums supported by dedicated tutors. Participants can see how technologies are being used for these distance learners, and evaluate what might work (or not work) in their own programmes.