

Organising to Learn at ULR Conference 2014



Thanks to all the ULRs who attended the Scottish Union Learning Highlands & Islands ULR Conference in June. This year's Conference was the 6th annual event and it was supported by the European Social Fund. The Conference focused on the importance of strong unions and well-trained ULRs in delivering the benefits of union-led learning to workers in the Highlands and Islands. Research consistently shows that workplaces with a high union density benefit from better pay and conditions, as well as more learning opportunities. However, 37% of the workers on courses supported by the Highlands and Islands Learning Fund since 2011, are not union members. The Conference looked at ways to engage with these learners and to promote the benefits of trade union membership as well as recruiting and developing more ULRs to strengthen the union learning infrastructure. Scottish Union Learning will be in touch with ULRs in the coming months to take forward the Conference's organising theme and priorities, such as establishing an Organising Group, as agreed by the ULRs present. Opportunities for recruiting learners to trade unions and encouraging more people to become ULRs will be explored, with ULR Forums and communication through social media also up for review.

In Brief...

Funding for Union Learning

First Minister Alex Salmond MSP has confirmed future funding for Scottish Union Learning for the next three years. He made the announcement at the STUC Annual Congress in April 2014.

Unions into Schools Sessions – Nicolson Institute, Stornoway

Following a recent Unions into Schools training course held in Stornoway, the Nicolson Institute has requested sessions to be held in late August/ September for S1, 2 and 3 pupils. The school would like a Gaelic speaker to support the delivery if possible. Contact Terry Anderson at tanderson@stuc.org.uk if you can help.

Highlands & Islands ULR Conference draw winner

UNISON ULR, Carol MacKenzie, won the £10 book token prize when her correct exhibitor quiz entry was first out of the hat.

Dyslexia Scotland Hebrides Roadshow: 25-29 August

For the first time, Dyslexia Scotland will embark on a 'mobile roadshow' tour of the Inner and Outer Hebrides in August. More information: <http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/events/hebrides-roadshow-25-29-august-2014>

Call to H&I ULRs to Get Online



A dedicated Facebook Group has been set up to provide a forum for ULRs in the Highlands and Islands at

www.facebook.com/groups/scottishunionlearning.highlandsandislands. The Group will be used to keep ULRs updated and to get your views on what's important to you. We hope you will engage with and help develop the Group to reflect the unique character of union learning in the Highlands and Islands. Please 'join' the ULR Group so you can keep in touch with other ULRs in the Highlands and Islands. This is a chance for you to share news and pictures of union learning activity in your area or workplace, so please join us online today! There is also a more general Scottish Union Learning Page at www.facebook.com/scottishunionlearning.

Other news...

STUC Annual Congress 2015

Next year's STUC Annual Congress will be held at Ayr Racecourse from Monday, 20 April to Wednesday, 22 April 2015. Details will be sent to affiliates over the coming months.

Free online "ESOL" course

Future Learn is offering a free online course: "Exploring English Language and Culture," delivered online by the British Council, which may be of particular interest to ULRs who are supporting migrant workers. The course requires two hours study per week for six weeks beginning on 1st September at www.futurelearn.com/courses/explore-english-language-culture.

Contact

Scottish Union Learning in the Highlands and Islands

UNISON Building
53 Shore Street
Inverness
IV1 1NF
Tel/Fax: 01463 248 905

Eleanor Adam
Development Officer
Email: eadam@stuc.org.uk
Mobile: 07876 260 412

Pam Urquhart
Development Officer
Email: purquhart@stuc.org.uk
Mobile: 07702 836 481

Diana Nicholls
Admin Assistant
Email: dnicholls@stuc.org.uk

Mairi Maciver
Admin Assistant
Email: mmaciver@stuc.org.uk

Do you know someone who deserves to be the 2014 Learner of the Year?

Trade unions across Scotland are being urged to nominate individuals, who embody the most positive aspects of being a learner, for the Scottish Union Learning Learner of the Year Award 2014. The award was introduced in 2011 to recognise the range of learning journeys currently undertaken by lay learners in the workplace, supported by trade unions. The individual Learner of the Year will be recognised on the basis of representing thousands of union learners throughout Scotland. Nominations can also be made on behalf of a group of learners where the collective experience is clearly the most significant factor of the group's learning journey. Nominations are welcome for those who have attended any form of learning that was supported by the trade union. Forms must be signed by a trade union official and by the nominated individual who must give their prior consent to being nominated. Submissions are due no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 5 September 2014. Further information and nomination forms are available at

www.scottishunionlearning.com/support/learner-award.



www.facebook.com/scottishunionlearning



www.twitter.com/unionlearning