8fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

8th Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

7-9 Medi | September 2020

# Crynoldebau / abstracts

"Academic Champions of Enterprise.......why every department should have one"

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The small AberCareers Enterprise Team in Careers supports students, graduates and staff who are interested in starting new businesses. Through a program of workshops and events, the team offers help and advice on all aspects of turning a good idea into a great enterprise.

In order to help to promote their message that working for yourself is a viable option for students and recent graduates, and also as a way of highlighting enterprise skills that students can use in any working situation, the Enterprise Team is establishing a network of staff members in academic departments known as ‘Academic Champions of Enterprise’ (ACEs).

What we are now looking to do, in addition to this support of student start-ups, is to communicate with a much wider group of students, in all academic departments, highlighting the importance of enterprise skills not just in new business starts but as important skills that can equally be used “intrapreneurially”, in whatever their chosen career might be. Things like problem solving; planning; researching markets and thinking creatively are just as useful to graduates who go on to be employed as those who choose self-employment.

Academics from within departments are in a great position to see opportunities in degree courses and specific modules, where enterprise skills can be highlighted and developed. ACEs can identify opportunities for enterprise skills to be enhanced in their departments and the team at AberCareers can facilitate the development of these opportunities by, for instance, bringing in an entrepreneurial role model relevant to the area of study.

The ACEs know the students, staff and degree schemes in their respective departments, putting them in an excellent position to spot opportunities. They will, hopefully, be the “go to” people in their departments, for all things to do with enterprise, entrepreneurship and start-up.  
So far we have ACEs identified in six academic departments (English, IBERS, Psychology, DGES, Comp Sci and Business) as well as an ACE who works for the Students Union. Over the coming year we are looking to expand the network of ACEs until, potentially, there is an ACE in each academic department