

Personal statement for David Powell

Current Role

I am the director of the Education and Training Consortium, an initial teacher education partnership between the University of Huddersfield and 21 further education colleges. It is the largest partnership of its type in England. The partnership is managed operationally by its Steering Committee, which consists of elected representatives from the partner colleges, and, like the Administrative Council, meets during the year to consider projects, manage the Consortium's finances, and promote its work. My work as director requires me to work collegiately and in partnership with college principals and leaders and teacher educators across the partnership, ensure that we operate within a balanced budget, respect and work to the contracts of collaboration and memorandum of co-operation between the University and the partner colleges, and to promote its work to existing and potential partners. As part of my work I meet and advise officials from the Department for Education, which has responsibility for teacher education in England, and other educational groups with interests in teacher education and teacher development. For example, as the largest initial teacher education partnership of its type, the Department of Education visited Huddersfield last year to learn from myself and representatives of our partnership about how we are supporting initial teacher education in the Post 16 sector. My work requires me to be active on social media and I use Twitter to promote the Consortium and its work, promote teacher education in general, comment on government policy on education, disseminate my research, and support the work of groups I am a member of such as ATEE.

Project work

I am in demand to undertake and evaluate project work. For example, I am currently part of a team scoping a Post 16 professional learning national framework for teachers and trainers in Wales. As part of this work, I have undertaken a desk based review of the existing teacher education qualifications in Wales for the Post 16 sector and interviewed staff, including college principals, from further education college about their initial teacher education and continuous professional development activities. This work is for the Welsh government.

As an evaluator, I have been responsible for judging the quality of government funded projects to support improvements in teaching, learning, and assessment and identifying lessons that can be learned from the project.

Membership of ATEE

I have been a member of ATEE since 2014 and been active in the discussions and project work of the Professional Development of Teacher Educators' RDC since I joined. I work collaboratively with colleagues in the RDC and this has included sharing my work on a Viewing Frame, a pedagogical tool for teacher educators and student teachers, which I designed to help student teachers' notice their teacher educators', or other teachers', use of modelling. Teacher educators from the Netherlands have been particularly enthusiastic about its value to their work. I have attended every Annual Conference since I joined in 2014.

Membership of English teacher education networks

I am a member of the Teacher Education in Lifelong Learning network, which connects some 400 plus teacher educators based in further education colleges and universities. Huddersfield is a member of the Universities Council for the Education and Teachers and this represents all universities delivering primary, secondary, and Post 16 initial teacher education in England.

International teaching

Examples of this include being a member of a teaching team that worked with Guangzhou Polytechnic Normal University to deliver professional development courses on student-centred learning for Chinese teachers based in cities within Guangdong Province. This international work reminded me of the need to be culturally-responsive when working with teachers and colleagues from another country.

International Collaboration and keynotes

I was successful in submitting an application that enabled me to bring Dr Anja Swennen, of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, as a Visiting Scholar to Huddersfield in 2017. I continue to work closely with Anja and we have recently written a paper for Dutch and Flemish teacher educators that was published in Kennisbasis, VELON's journal.

In 2018 I was invited by Dr Quinta Kools to speak to members of VELON about the design and development of my Viewing Frame. Also in 2018, I was a keynote speaker at Teacher Training International perspectives conference at Rovira i Virgili University, Tarragona, Spain. The title of my key note was Professional Learning: an international perspective.

Personal qualities

I am a good listener and possess well developed oral and written communication skills. I am passionate about teacher education and the way in which it transforms lives. This passion is evident in the way that I work.