

Unions bid for new learning funds

The Scottish Government has advised that Scottish Union Learning will receive funding for a further year at current levels. This will be formally confirmed in February 2012. This funding will support Development Fund projects in the Highlands and Islands for the period 2012 to 2013. Unions have already been invited to submit funding applications for projects to run from April 2012. Development Officers are providing guidance and support for the process, which will see all the applications submitted by the deadline of 19th December 2011 for evaluation by the panel early in the New Year.

To be considered for funding, unions must demonstrate in their bids that their projects support a number of Scottish and European Government priorities, including improving access to learning in remote areas and providing opportunities for people to gain skills and qualifications which enhance their employability and life chances.

Western Isles ULR Forum off to a flying start

Despite the arrival of the wintry weather, ULRs and colleagues from the local Trades Council turned out in encouraging numbers for the first meeting of the Western Isles Cross Union Forum on 6th December.

Six different unions were represented at the meeting, during which members discussed the key role of the Forum in sustaining learning in remote areas and the benefits of working together with the recently reformed Western Isles Trades Council.

RMT Project Worker Dan Henderson gave a well-received session on Dyslexia Awareness in response to interest expressed at an earlier date by Western Isles ULRs. Other topics included organising cross-union courses, such as British Sign Language, in the New Year, and identifying more opportunities to collaborate across unions and workplaces. More information on Dyslexia Awareness can be found at www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk.

What's on

Highlands & Islands Calendar

Calendars depicting Highlands and Islands learners are dropping through letterboxes in time for Christmas. Many thanks to all the learners and ULRs who helped with this project, which will help raise the profile of union-led learning in the workplace.

Cross Union Forums - 2012

The first Highlands and Islands ULR Forum will be a joint meeting of all the Forums on 12th March by multi-link video conference. Further details will be communicated nearer the time.

ULR Refresher Course

TUC Education will be holding a one-day ULR refresher course on 6th March 2012 in Caithness. Further information will be circulated in the New Year or contact Stuart Bell at TUC Education on sbell@stuc.org.uk.

PCs for ULRs from £95

Details of the Microsoft Get Online @ Home offer available to ULRs for low cost PCs are now available on our website at www.scottishunionlearning.com/support/resources/get-online-home.

Christmas challenge

Have a break -
Have a Quick Read!



For the chance to win a £10 book token, answer the following questions!

The 1st Learner of the Year was announced at this year's Scottish Union Learning Conference in Glasgow on 10th November 2011.

- 1) What was the learner's name?
- 2) Of which union are they a member?

Please send your answers to mmaciver@stuc.org.uk or by post to the Scottish Union Learning office by Friday 27th January 2012.

The quiz is open to all Highlands and Islands ULRs. The answers can be found in the News section of the Scottish Union Learning website.

Quick Reads are short, fast-paced books written by bestselling writers and celebrities, which are perfect for introducing reading at work. To celebrate the launch of the new Quick Reads, organisations are being invited to hold a Quick Reads Reading Break on Tuesday 7th February 2012 to encourage people to fall in love with reading.

ULRs can find out more and order an employer's pack from www.quickreads.org.uk including 60 copies of titles, a display stand, materials and an employer's guide.

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New Year, new learning opportunities

Demand from Highlands and Islands ULR forums will see a wide range of cross union courses roll out early in the New Year, following the redistribution of savings from the Learning Fund in the Autumn. For learners in the Inverness area, Inverness College is hosting:

- PC Passport – Internet and Online Communications runs for 12 weeks from 10th January to 27th March 2012
- PC Passport – IT Software – Word Processing and Presenting Information runs for 12 weeks from 11th January to 28th March 2012
- CMI Introduction to Management, runs for 12 weeks from 10th January to 27th March 2012
(All of these courses run from 6.30 pm until 8.30 pm.)
- Western Isles – British Sign Language 101, running over three 7 hour days from 28th February – 1st March 2012

The courses are filling up fast so if you want to be considered, please get in touch now. The absolute deadline to register is Tuesday 20th December 2011 at 5pm.

This year, with the support of such a dedicated network of Union Learning Reps, Scottish Union Learning expects to have provided 300 workers with fully funded learning opportunities. Thank you - we couldn't do it without you!



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