

## **Ambition 2020: World Class Skills and Jobs for the UK**

A joint video by UKCES and IfL

**Toni Fazaeli**

**IfL - Chief Executive**

IfL knows that you, our members – teachers and trainers across England – play an amazingly important part in driving forward our economy, and it is fantastic that Chris Humphries, the Chief Executive of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES), has made a film to speak directly to you as the teachers and trainers in the country, because he and the Commission know just how important a part you play for the nation.

**Chris Humphries**

**UKCES - Chief Executive**

The UK's colleges, training providers and universities are, in some ways the most important tool available to us in terms of helping ensure the strength of the UK economy over the next decade. In a way, I suppose, they are the most important economic development tool that this nation has available to it, and helping and supporting them and recognising their role in this is essential if we are going to keep pace with international competition and re-establish ourselves as a top eight nation. If our colleges, training providers and universities are the engine room of economic development and productivity, then there are really important messages in this for our lecturers, teachers and trainers.

1. Be as talented and as skilled in your chosen area of specialism as you possibly can, and renew and reinvigorate that capability as often as you can by going back to work in industry, placements in employers, or exchange with workers from the field to improve your own knowledge base.
2. Learn to be the best teacher that you possibly can. The fact is that teachers have succeeded only when learners have learned, so it is really important that you judge your success as a teacher by the success of your learners, both in completing their courses and in being able to apply their knowledge and skills successfully in their future jobs.
3. Make this a passionate commitment to the future. Do not just do your job, but get up in the morning knowing that what you are doing is one of the most important jobs that this nation has.

What we as a nation need to do in return is to acknowledge and celebrate your contribution and success, and to create a sense of pride in the role of teacher and trainer that is currently not yet sufficient.

There is no doubt that, without you as teachers and trainers, and without the quality and effectiveness of the institutions in which you work, we will simply not get to be in the top eight nations of the world by 2020. You are a critical part of our success and

it is important that the nation recognises and acknowledges that. You are not trailing industry, but are trailblazing for industry.

## **Teachers and Trainers Boosting the Economy**

### **Stoke-on-Trent College**

#### **Toni Fazaeli**

What do teachers and trainers do to boost the economy? I would like to turn first to Stoke-upon-Trent, where a group of teachers and trainers are discussing how they approach working with people who have lost their jobs in the pottery industries. So let us hear directly from IfL members in Stoke.

#### **Alex Hope, Recruitment Manager, Stoke-on-Trent**

The discussion group we have had this morning has been excellent. It is great to bring together people from different faculties and areas of the college to talk about how we are going to gear up and prepare ourselves for supporting unemployed adults.

It is great to see people from areas such as Skills for Employment, which encompasses the unemployed adult projects, but also areas like Skills for Life for example, which is about teaching people basic english and basic maths, and bringing them through the process. The Stoke on Trent has been very difficult. The pottery industry has recently fallen on its back and it has been a gradual decline over four or five years. That has made things more difficult because the government has not necessarily wanted to pump money directly into any support straight away, so it has been difficult.

The training schemes that we run at the moment at Forty Trinity Street, where we work mainly with Skills for Employment, include many soft skills like motivation and teamwork. We also look at CV preparation and promoting yourself to companies and organisations. It is not about learning these things, but rather about teaching yourself how to do them so that you can take those skills away and use them elsewhere. It might be that we do not see someone for six months once they find a job. If they are out of work again, we can use the skills that they have learnt to find other work, which is great. We have brought in new staff from different industries who have had life experience in different jobs and taught their skills to other people.

It is very important that colleges get on board with Ambition 2020 and work towards up skilling people and getting them into the right job sustained employment is very important and something that we do not talk about enough. It is not just about the quick hit, but also about ensuring that people who are working are supported with learning through different schemes, such as Train to Gain, whereby they can continue with an NVQ, for example.

The IfL is very important. It brings people together to discuss and share best practice. The discussion that we have had today has been fantastic. Even within our own organisation, it has brought us together, which is great and does not happen enough. We talk about different faculties in different areas, but we do not learn enough from first-hand experience and what people do. That has brought us together. It has also given us an opportunity to learn about other colleges and learning environments and what people are doing, and to share our practice. We think that we at Stoke-on-Trent

College are the best, and we are at a lot of things, which is fantastic, but it is nice to learn about other people's experiences and environments and how we can work together to support the nation and not just our local environment.

### **Richmond upon Thames**

#### **Pravina Tailor, Employment Training Solutions Manager, College of North East London**

We offer the traditional courses that you would find on offer in many colleges, like hairdressing, construction and health and social care. We are also, however, finding that employers increasingly want something else that is specific to them too, so we have now started different qualifications. We hope to give the unemployed skills to find work and those who are already in employment upskilling so that they can progress within their organisations.

How we help the local community is helping them to find jobs, giving them the skills to look for them and working with employers who have vacancies that we might be able to notify our learners about. It is working in partnership with community groups and employers and among ourselves.

It is very important for people in the community and employed people to understand the role of further education (FE) colleges today, where we are offering much more than just traditional courses.

We are here to upskill them, to help them develop employability skills and to create a better life and a better community around us. It is very important for colleges to work together.

Today, for example, we had the Richmond Adult Community College, discussing what we do, how we do it, and how we benefit the community and address the needs of the community and the nation in upskilling them and helping them find jobs.

### **Toni Fazaeli**

IfL and the Commission would really like to hear your views. What do you think of Ambition 2020? What practice do you have with learners that you think is really making a difference to help strengthen the economy and up skill learners in your area? Is there any support that you would like from IfL or other organisations? We need to hear your views and your voice, so please do get in touch – I look forward to hearing from you.

To give your views on Ambition 2020 contact [chiefexecutive@ifl.ac.uk](mailto:chiefexecutive@ifl.ac.uk)

To view the Ambition 2020 report: [www.ukces.org.uk](http://www.ukces.org.uk)