

Professional Development @ SSERC

For a number of years SSERC has been receiving funding from the Scottish Government to support professional development activities for teachers, student teachers and technicians.

In previous issues of the SSERC Bulletin (see for example [1, 2]) we have highlighted aspects of our provision. More recently our collaboration with the National Science Learning Centre at York has allowed access to ENTHUSE and RCUK funding thereby increasing the range and scope of our support for science and technology practitioners. We like to think that we are pretty good at what we do and this has been borne out by a recent external evaluation of our CPD provision by the Scottish Council for Research in Education at the University of Glasgow [3].

So, what of the future? The most recent tranche of funding from the Scottish Government came

to an end in March 2012 and we are delighted to be able to report that their support for the SSERC programme of professional development is to continue. As part of its response to the recent publication of a report [4] from the Science and Engineering Education Advisory Group, the Scottish Government has earmarked funds which will allow SSERC to continue its national programme of professional development. To support our work with the secondary sector a major investment of £1.8 M over a 3-year period, starting April 2012, has been announced. Our work with the primary sector is set to grow and we are in discussion with the Government about an investment of some £300 k for each of the next 3 years.

With this welcome news we are busy planning our programmes of activities for the new academic session. Fliers for a range of our courses have recently been sent to schools and colleges and bookings



are already buoyant! So if you don't want to miss out contact us to see what we might have on offer to support you at this time of curriculum change! ◀



References

- [1] CPD - Leading for Excellence in Science (2010), *SSERC Bulletin*, **232**, 8-9.
- [2] A Summer of CPD (2009), *SSERC Bulletin*, **229**, 12.
- [3] Lowden, K., Hall, S., Lally, V. and Mancy, R. (2011) SSERC's Support for Science Education in Scotland through CPD: External Evaluation Final Report-February 2011. ISBN 978-0-9531776-5-3, SSERC, Dunfermline. Available for download at http://www.science3-18.org/images/Publications/SSERC%20SCRE_final.pdf (accessed May 16th 2012).
- [4] Supporting Scotland's STEM Education and Culture (2012) Science and Engineering Education Advisory Group (SEEAG), Second Report. Available at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0038/00388616.pdf> (accessed May 16th 2012).