

Title of presentation

The Challenge of Entrepreneurship & Innovation in STEM Pathways

Presenters

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Abstract

In the recent Independent Strategic Review of the NI Agri-Food Industry (Kendall, 2021), it was concluded that 'NI does not have a culture which supports entrepreneurship and innovation'. This conclusion is extremely disappointing to read when the need for an increasing number of entrepreneurs with a social awareness and truly innovative ideas has never been greater as NI and the world rises to the challenge of tackling climate change and the need to implement the UN SDGs.

QUB is recognized as first in UK for Entrepreneurial Impact and is the number 1 UK University for commercializing research. However, it has been noted in student feedback, that UG Bioscience students fail to understand the relevance and importance of innovation and entrepreneurship to their degree pathways. How can these desirable employability skills be better embedded into UG STEM subjects as to positively influence the attitude / opinion of students and to inspire those who will be key to solving the climate change problems?

At this workshop participants will hear how a module team successfully tackled the problem of their biosciences students who were limiting their entrepreneurial ability and expectations; an 'Entrepreneurs Seminar' opened the academic year and introduced the students to 9 local entrepreneurs each with a very different story to tell and each truly inspirational. Examples of student submissions will be shared. There will be an opportunity for attendees working in small groups / break out rooms to share their experiences of embedding entrepreneurship and innovation into STEM subjects to inspire students. These experiences will then be shared with the whole group which

will enable participants to take away ideas and suggestions which can be applied within their own academic pathways.

Reference:

Kendall, P. (2021). Independent Strategic Review of the Northern Ireland Agri-Food Sector. DAERA.