

24TH EAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Advocating for access, equity, inclusion and diversity in higher education Politics, Policies, Power and Persuasion

All of us seeking to change the ideas, policies, practices, systems and other factors that support and perpetuate education inequalities are 'advocates for change' - whether we are students, academics, administrators, policy makers, teachers, support workers, or have some other role within or outside higher education. Being an advocate for change in higher education, particularly an 'equity champion', is a challenging role. It is also a very important role. Without equity champions - both individuals and organisations - it is doubtful that many of the reforms that have opened up higher education opportunities for a more diverse student group over recent decades would have been achieved.

Education inequalities contribute to social divisions and disharmony. Eliminating them is vital. In this conference we share a legacy of knowledge, expertise and experience that we can use to make our task easier and help us to change 'what is' into 'what should be' more quickly. We will explore how we can use it to help us shape our strategies, guide our priorities and develop new approaches for new times and circumstances.

International proposals are sought which will address the following questions:

1. What forms of education inequalities are the most difficult to overcome? Why are they so challenging and what strategies should we use?
2. What are the factors that make change difficult to achieve? What strategies should we use to overcome them?
3. What competing interests within higher education affect our chances of success? How do we counter them?
4. Where and in what circumstances is success most likely? Where should we focus our efforts to achieve the greatest change?
5. Who can help us to achieve our goals? How do we engage them and gain their support?
6. Influencing politicians and public opinion - is it necessary? How do we go about it?

Proposals should consider the roles of student organisations, trade unions, networks and civil society organisations representing groups within and outside higher education.

Deadline for submission: Monday 2nd March 2015

PLEASE NOTE:

All presenters whose proposal has been accepted will be required to submit a piece on their topic 3 weeks prior to the conference. This piece can be in a variety of forms from the more traditional (a short paper of up to 2000 words, a PowerPoint presentation of up to 10 slides, with or without embedded voice-over), to newer forms such as a short video,

'EANwiki entry' or podcast. Presenters are encouraged to be creative. These pieces will be 'published' by the EAN after the conference.