Title: **Scaling Up Active Collaborative Learning for Student Success**

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Session Learning Outcomes

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Articulate the essence of two active collaborative learning approaches – SCALE-UP and Team-Based Learning (TBL)
- Identify the benefits of their use, particularly in addressing unexplained barriers to student success
- Identify strategies to ensure successful adoption of SCALE-UP and TBL, particularly for use beyond 'early adopters'.
- Consider development needs for widespread use of active collaborative learning: from academic practice to timetabling.

Session Outline

Our project has evidenced that strategic, widespread use of active collaborative learning provides benefits to all students. It also reduces, and in some cases, removes, gaps in student engagement and attendance, attainment and progression, ensuring that all students can succeed regardless of their background.

And while widespread adoption of active collaborative learning takes time to mature, benefits can be seen from the first year. These benefits are not limited to student outcomes, extending to high levels of staff satisfaction, the recognition of increased employability and improved design of learning spaces.

Nottingham Trent University was the project's lead institution and its SCALE-UP programme won the Course and Curriculum Design award at the Guardian University Awards 2019.

In this session we will present findings of this significant project. We will also provide an opportunity for delegates to discuss the challenges and opportunities of implementing an active and collaborative model across an institution. Discussions will be facilitated by project members from the three institutions.

Our project ran from March 2017 – February 2019 and aimed to scale up active collaborative learning models across an institution to improve student success. The two models were SCALE-UP at NTU and Team-Based Learning (TBL) at the University of Bradford and Anglia Ruskin University.

The project saw high engagement from students and staff (academic and professional service colleagues) at all three institutions. Academic colleagues were central as they volunteered to adopt a new learning and teaching approach and gave time to the evaluation. Professional service colleagues who manage student outcomes data were integral to the teaching and evaluation. For students, at NTU SCALE-UP is used in 249 modules equating to over 16,000 students, at Anglia Ruskin University TBL is in 101 modules totalling 2676 students, and the University of Bradford uses TBL in 26 modules resulting in 950 students.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

As this session explores the benefits of active collaborative learning, we believe it should be as interactive as possible. While SCALE-UP and Team-Based Learning are distinct learning methods, they are related. So, we will use common features to structure the session. Throughout, session leaders will help facilitate the discussions and provide learning from their own context. In the end, groups will present their discussions to demonstrate and share learning.

Introduction and findings – 20 minutes
The session leaders will outline the project and present the main findings. This is to ensure participants are aware of the importance of the findings and the impacts they have on student success.

Workshop – 45 minutes
Groups will be situated on tables and will be able to utilise technology and flip-chart paper to facilitate discussion, investigation and pull together their considerations. Delegates will have the opportunity to take part in two table discussions over two twenty-minute blocks. The table discussion topics are as follows:

- Working with students
- Developing learning spaces
- Educational development support
- Evaluation
- Operational support

Session leaders will facilitate the groups as they discuss the various topics and give insight from their own learnings.

Presentations – 10 minutes
Each table will present their reflections on the two twenty-minute blocks back to the remainder of the delegates in 2-minute blocks with all notes being made available at a future date.

Summing up and Reflections – 15 minutes
Session leaders will close the session, follow up on considerations made within the workshop, and hand out our 'blueprint' model. The blueprint explains, in further detail, how to implement active collaborative learning at scale.

References

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