Title: **Creative uses of web-based technologies to develop student employability through self-evaluation**

Presenter: **Anna Hunter and Lorraine Dacre-Pool**
University of Central Lancashire

Session Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify the discrete stages of students' employability development and discuss a range of teaching and learning strategies that can be used to facilitate transition between stages
- Critically engage with discussion around the use of alternative web-based presentation/ interview tools

Session Outline

Key issues to be addressed are: Creativity in technology-enhanced learning; Engaging students creatively as partners.

This session will reflect upon the use of interactive technology to support the employability development of students within a specific setting; it will also explore and evaluate the creative application of this technology to a context different from that originally intended. The theory underpinning the use of this software is grounded in the CareerEDGE model of Employability (Dacre-Pool and Sewell, 2007) and this session will also explore the potential for students to develop and progress through the model via a sustained engagement with the activities outlined.

InterviewStream is a web-based program that enables staff to pre-record interview questions that students can access online, before recording their answers and evaluating their performances. This workshop will describe two ways in which InterviewStream has been used at the University of Central Lancashire and map the outcomes for students against the CareerEDGE model. Lorraine Dacre-Pool will explore the use of InterviewStream as a tool for enhancing students' career development learning by providing realistic virtual interview practice. In an alternative use of the software that targets students' generic skills, Anna Hunter will discuss the means by which InterviewStream has been adapted to facilitate the delivery of assessed presentations within an online course. Both speakers will seek to evaluate the impact of these activities and explore the challenges encountered. Reflecting upon both of these exercises it has become apparent that although, as will be discussed, there have been issues with the use of InterviewStream, it also offers the opportunity for students to engage as partners in their own development through self-assessment and reflective learning, thus enhancing self-confidence and self-belief. The presentation will conclude by detailing plans to capitalise on this potential in the future through a more sustained process of self-evaluation

that attempts to encourage students to move forwards through the stages of CareerEDGE towards employability.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Presentation of discussion paper: 25 minutes

Indicative questions: Based on the activities outlined in the presentation and the challenges encountered, is this software the correct tool for the job? Do delegates have experience of using other programs in a similar fashion?

How else might this software be used to enhance student development?

The session demonstrates how the software has been used to enhance student development within two aspects of the CareerEDGE model, with the possibility of extending this to include higher aspect metacognitive functions. Are there ways of further extending the use of this software to target other areas of development under the CareerEDGE model?

References
Dacre-Pool, L. and Sewell, P. (2007) The Key To Employability: Developing a practical model of graduate employability. *Education and Training* 49 (4): 277-289.