



Welcome to the latest edition of the TechNet newsletter aimed at providing relevant information to all Warwick University technicians. This newsletter is produced quarterly and if you have anything you would like to add, please email: technicians@warwick.ac.uk.

Technician's commitment-update 2020 event

On Thursday 13th February 2020 at 12.00pm, we will hold an- Our Technicians Commitment – Update for 2020 event, with lunch provided. This event will take place in the Oculus Building in room OCO.04 with lunch just outside.

The session will cover:

- The timescales of our action plan for our Technicians Commitment.
- What we have implemented since the last update
- Highlight how to keep up to date with our latest progress and news through our TechNet website.
- Inform our staff of upcoming events and awards
- How you can help shape our Technician Commitment
- A chance to ask questions about the Technician Commitment and provide feedback.

By the end of this session, we hope you will have a better understanding of Warwick's Technician Commitment and the timescales at which individual elements will be implemented. It will also provide an opportunity for feedback and ask any questions, in addition to networking with technical staff from across campus. To register please click on this link: [Register](#)

Technicians Christmas Extravaganza

A wonderful time was had by all who attended the Technician's Christmas Extravaganza. Lots of mince pies were eaten and washed down with festive mulled wine. The event also brought many of the technicians together from across campus to participant in a team building exercise of making the tallest freestanding tower with dowel. Prizes were awarded to the winning team and some fun was had with the teams who had decided to test the rules! Next time, we may have to award a prize for the most ingenious rule breaking creation. The Steering Group would like to thank all those who came along to enjoy the event and also provided feedback on the commitment.



Technician's commitment champions

As you are aware, the University signed up to the Technician Commitment in May 2017 and our 2 year action plan was approved in June 2018. Over the past year a lot of work has been going on towards our action plan and we are now preparing to implement some of the actions as we end this two year period.

We will shortly be formulating an action plan for the next three years and we need your help with this. The Technician Commitment can make a difference and we want you to tell us what matters to you and help shape your future.

We would like to put together a group of 8-10 Technician Commitment Champions to work with us. It is important that all grades and disciplines are represented in this group. We see your role as coming up with ideas for us to work on, communicating the work that is going on with your colleagues and encouraging them to engage with the process. The Technician Commitment will only be successful if Technicians support it.

We are holding a Technician Update Event on 13 February and we would like you all to attend this. We aim to discuss ideas for formulating the group of Champions and how we see this working. Following this we will put together further focus groups to discuss some of the ideas in more detail with a view to formulating actions ongoing for the next three year.

If you are interested in being involved please register for the event on 13 February.

Social media

Don't forget for all information related to technicians please visit the website: TechNet at Warwick:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/research/technicians>

Also please follow us on our twitter:  @TechNetWarwick

STEMM-CHANGE: The Changemaker Placement programme

STEMM-CHANGE is an EPSRC-funded project driving a positive change in culture and practices in equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM).

The project takes a team science approach and is unique in that it acknowledges the diversity of the roles of staff that contribute to the research effort. Technicians make vital contributions to universities and research institutes. Their expertise enables teaching, research, knowledge exchange and outreach activities. STEMM-CHANGE is highlighting the equality, diversity and inclusion challenges facing technicians and designing and testing ways to address these challenges in order to advance EDI for all.

STEMM-CHANGE has developed an innovative and bespoke Changemaker Placement Programme built specifically for technical colleagues from underrepresented and minority groups. The project will offer up to 30 placements each of 1-5 days in length over a period of months (on a flexible basis) to technicians from across the consortium to enable them to shadow senior colleagues. Representative activities include observing colleagues in leadership positions, learning new skills, (both technical and transferable) and exposure to discussions on careers and opportunities in order to broaden horizons and demonstrate achievable career paths. Technical colleagues may shadow and link with other technical staff or those from other career paths in senior leadership positions from our project partners within higher education, industry and beyond.

Applications are welcomed from technical colleagues at any level and discipline and who are from an underrepresented and/or minority group. The project aims to create opportunities for all minority groups highlighted in the Equality Act 2010 and see a particular need to create spaces for the following consistently underrepresented groups within technical management and leadership teams:

Female colleagues, Disabled colleagues, Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) colleagues, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT+) Colleagues

Applications are now open for the scheme. Further details are available in the Changemaker Placement Programme flyer and the application form which can both [be found here](#). Applications should be returned to the STEMM-CHANGE team by 5pm on 2 March 2020.



Our Technician Commitment
Your future, our focus