

This newsletter was brought to you by:



UniServe Science

UniServe was set up in 1994 with some Federal Government funding as a clearinghouse for information about new technologies in tertiary science teaching. Since that time it has changed its focus and currently it is funded by the University of Sydney through the College of Sciences and Technology to expand its activities to better serve its clients. In this change UniServe taken on a more defined and enlarged role within the University.

UniServe now has three main activities:

- supporting teaching in the College of Sciences and Technology at the University of Sydney;

- serving NSW Schools; and
- supporting tertiary science teaching.

It is the latter that is associated with national and international tertiary science activities. In this area UniServe hosts two annual meetings—one is a First Year Experience Forum for science teachers around Australia and the second is a one-day conference on scholarly enquiry into science teaching and learning. In addition UniServe publishes two editions of *CAL-laborate* each year for its international connections.

<http://science.uniserve.edu.au/>

Council for Renewal of Higher Education

The **Swedish Council for Renewal of Undergraduate Education** was established by the Swedish Parliament on 1st July 1990, and became a permanent National Agency in 1993. Since July 1, 1995 the Council is an integral part of the National Agency for Higher Education. Since October 1999 postgraduate education is included in the Council's responsibilities which has led to a change of name. The purpose of the **Council for Renewal of Higher Education** is to promote and support efforts to develop quality and renewal of higher education. The three main activities of the council are:

- to award grants for development activities;
- to collect and disseminate information on planned, current, and completed development activities of a fundamental and innovative nature concerning undergraduate education in Sweden and abroad; and
- to evaluate the development activities the Council has funded.



Some specific objectives of the Council are to:

- support the integration of environmental studies in Sweden undergraduate education;
- support changes in curricula and pedagogy in Engineering and Natural Science programs in order to recruit more female students to these programs; and
- support the use of IT in teacher training.

Currently funded projects include 'Hypermedia and Communications for Active Learning', 'New Forms of Assessment in Mathematics and Computer Science', 'Interactive Distance Education in Multimedia' and 'Computer Assisted Education in Radiographic Techniques for Dental Students'.

<http://www.hgur.se/>

<http://www.hsv.se/english/>

Learning and Teaching Support Network

The **LTSN** has been established by the UK higher education funding bodies to promote high quality learning and teaching in all subject disciplines in higher education. The network supports the sharing of innovation and good practices in learning and teaching including the use, where appropriate, of communications and information technology.

The network consists of:

- 24 subject centres;
- a Generic Centre (GC) and a Technologies Centre; and
- a program director and coordinator.

Many of the new subject centres build on existing Computers in Teaching Initiative (CTI) Centres and involve learning and teaching support networks created by other funding council

initiatives, such as the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (FDTL). The new centres are the main points of contact within subject communities for information and advice on good practices and innovations in learning, teaching and assessment, and will provide support for the many networks which already exist.

The GC provides strategic advice to the sector on generic learning and teaching issues, disseminates good practice in the development and deployment of new methods and new technologies, and acts as a knowledge broker for innovation in learning and teaching.

<http://www.ltsn.ac>

