

Frimley, UK
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New UTC Principal promises “fresh approach” for students in Lincolnshire

Today, the three partner organisations behind Lincoln’s first-ever University Technical College (UTC) - Lincoln College, the University of Lincoln and global engineering and technology firm Siemens, have announced the appointment of Dr Rona Mackenzie as the college’s new Principal. Dr Mackenzie is joining the UTC from North Kesteven School in Lincoln where she is currently Deputy Head Teacher. She will take up her new role at the UTC in September this year. The college will open officially in September 2014.

The Lincoln UTC was announced in May last year and will specialise in engineering and core science subjects. UTCs offer 14-19 year olds the opportunity to take a highly regarded, full-time, technically-oriented course of study. Learning is delivered in a very practical way, integrating national curriculum requirements with technical and vocational elements.

Dr MacKenzie brings many years experience in the education sector and plans to take a fresh approach as Principal. Commenting on her new role, Mackenzie said:

“I am delighted to be appointed as Principal of the Lincoln UTC, which is one of the most exciting new initiatives in vocational education. I look forward to working with the three partner organisations who have worked hard to get the UTC to its current stage. Not only are we pioneering a new educational concept, but we also have a new team and excellent facilities, all of which underpins the forward looking nature of the UTC.”

Simon Plummer, spokesperson for Lincoln’s UTC said:

“The three partner organisations welcome Dr Mackenzie’s appointment as the new Principal. Rona brings a wealth of experience in the education sector and will be able to assist us in developing the UTC through the next key stage of development. The UTC complements vocational and educational initiatives across the region and we look forward to getting the college up and running in 2014. We wish our new Principal all the best in her new role.”

- ENDS -

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* Data includes intercompany revenue. Data may not be comparable with revenue reported in annual or interim reports.

About The Baker Dearing Educational Trust

The Baker Dearing Educational Trust was founded by Lord Baker and Lord Dearing to promote University Technical Colleges. The organisation acts as a central body to provide advice and guidance and will guide the University Technical Colleges movement over the long term. For more information about the Trust, visit: www.utcolleges.org

About University Technical Colleges

University Technical Colleges are distinct in three important ways:

- 1) They are 14-19 not 11-18 schools
- 2) Each must be sponsored by a university and local employers
- 3) Employers will be involved from the start in shaping the curriculum

UTCs are a high quality new route to education and training which follows through to further study and employment. They are a radical solution to the totally inadequate number of technicians and engineers in the country. They are

free standing colleges for 600 - 800 14 to 19 year old students, with a working day of 8:30am - 5:30pm. Students spend two days a week on practical study and three days a week on academic study linking the hand with the mind. Each UTC provides at least one technical specialism alongside the key GCSEs in English, maths and science, as well as a foreign language, humanities, finance, business, entrepreneurial and employability skills.

All UTCs are supported by a university, a range of local employers and very often an FE college. This unique approach offers students a high quality, rounded, technical education which can lead to apprenticeships, foundation and higher degrees.

Local employers both big and small have a major and continuing role via the governance of the UTC. They help to shape the curriculum and relate it to future jobs that match the needs of the local economy. Students in turn acquire the skills and knowledge employers are looking for.