

Building Pathways

April 2005



Building Pathways and the 3D Project

Last year **Building Pathways** contacted the **Hallam Volunteering** organisation in Sheffield Hallam University to consider developing a project which used the enthusiasm of student volunteers to work together with college computing students on a project which would help raise the interest and aspirations of the college learners about opportunities for progression at a local university. The idea of the 3D project was created by Jayne Evans the manager of Hallam Volunteering and six volunteers were recruited to work on the project. After 'selling' their idea to the whole computing cohort at Rotherham college eventually 15 students were recruited to work with the volunteers on the Project.

Between September 2004 and April 2005 the college students have attended Sheffield Hallam workshops with the volunteers and using 'Blender' software package have put together a series of short animated films. The students have been enthusiastically supported by the tutors in Rotherham and, together with the volunteers, have all freely given up their time to produce the films.

Recently the films were given a premier showing, featuring as part of the Sheffield Lovebytes Digital Arts Festival programme (www.festival2005.lovebytes.org.uk). The volunteers organised a friendly, welcoming and exciting evening for the college students to showcase their films to their friends, family and course tutors. There was a presentation by the college principal and an award winning employer, Ben Smith, from the locally based Red Star studios.

Across lunchtime you will be given an opportunity to watch the films and discuss their production with the volunteers.

* **Hallam Volunteering** exists to provide a the opportunity for students and staff of Sheffield Hallam University to contribute to the community through a variety of enjoyable, volunteer-led projects in and around Sheffield. All projects are specifically designed to meet the needs of students and staff at Sheffield Hallam University and to fit with the academic year. For more info visit www.hallamunion.com/vol

Building Pathways' Student Ambassador Project

Building Pathways has funding from the Aimhigher Partnerships for Progression strategy in South Yorkshire to develop projects which enhance progression and transition of learners from FE level 3 vocational programmes to HE.

This year we have had two projects in place to support this aim using university "student ambassadors". In the first of these, 'ambassadors' from the Organisation and Management Faculty in Sheffield Hallam University have been engaging in a programme of awareness raising activities at Chesterfield, Rotherham and Sheffield Colleges with level 3 students on **Business** programmes. Students who may not initially be considering HE as a serious option for progression are being encouraged to "think again". Ambassadors have designed and presented initial awareness raising sessions covering key topics such as the benefits of HE, informing decision making choice about where to study and popular conceptions/misconceptions about university life. The second project has been the project developed in conjunction with *Hallam Volunteering*.