



Press Release from Bournemouth University

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Bournemouth graduates to get a 'Flying Start'

Graduates thinking about starting their own business are being encouraged to visit Bournemouth's 'FlyingStart: Make it Happen Day' and turn their business ideas into reality.

The free, one day event on Thursday, 26 November, will be held at Bournemouth University's (BU) new Executive Business Centre on Holdenhurst Road.

'FlyingStart: Make it Happen' will give graduates from BU as well as other graduates based in the region an opportunity to network with like-minded people, giving them the motivation needed to take the first step to starting their own businesses.

The Bournemouth day will cover a range of topics, including:

- How to find and develop a sustainable money making idea
- Details on how to start a business
- Information on what it is like to be self employed
- Ways to access available funding to give businesses a flying start

Those who move forward with their plans will have the opportunity to meet with mentors dedicated to guiding them in their early career. These highly experienced, business people will then be on hand to offer support and guidance free of charge for the next 12 months.

Launched in 2005 by the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE), FlyingStart aims to inspire final year, university students to think seriously about starting a business. The NCGE is funded by the government's Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) which has invested a further £1 million to support the 'Make It Happen' initiative to give 5,000 graduates the opportunity to attend one of 50, one-day rallies aimed at inspiring them to start their own business.

The 'Make it Happen' Day is just the first step in a 12 month support programme for those who want to progress their business idea. To find out more, or to register for the event, graduates should visit: www.flyingstartonline.com/makeithappen

David Lammy, Minister for Higher Education, said: "The skills and talents of Bournemouth's young people are essential as we build a stronger Britain. It will be their enterprise and entrepreneurship which will give us and them the competitive edge we need.

"In the last downturn household names such as Green and Blacks chocolate and eBay were created by young entrepreneurs. We are harnessing the entrepreneurial spirit of our new generation of graduates, providing opportunities for 5,000 to explore starting up their own business.

"FlyingStart: Make it Happen is an important addition to the range of options available to recent graduates including internships, further study and volunteering."

Local gradpreneur and owner of Fluvial Innovations, Simon Phelps 25 graduated from BU in 2004 with a BSc (Hons) in Computer Aided Design turning his final year project into a commercial opportunity.

"The time with my mentorshas been invaluable," said Simon. "They have provided me with amazing insight and advice which really helped me make headway with the progress of the business."

For further information on the Bournemouth 'Flying Start: Make It Happen' event, please visit: www.flyingstartonline.com/makeithappen

Ends

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