



Honorary Membership and Commendations of Contribution

Honorary Membership

No nominations were received for honorary membership

Commendation of Contribution

Al Blackshaw, University of Strathclyde

Digital Development Manger & Finance Manager

Al Blackshaw served on the HELOA UK Committee for 6 years, from 2015 to 2021, initially as Digital Development Manager and laterally as Finance Manager.

Having held two integral roles on the UKC, many of us have fond memories of Al's often larger than life personality, however he is also a dedicated and diligent professional.

In the face of the Covid-19 pandemic, Al played an integral role in the Finance Team in assessing the financial situation, preparing contingency plans and recommending cost savings to ensure the continued financial viability of the association.

As a consequence of the mitigations put into place, the 2020/2021 financial year ended with our much reduced income having covered all expenses, generated a further surplus, and with our operating surplus carried over from the previous year, intact. This enabled us to go forward into yet another pandemic year in a financially stable position.

Michelle Terrell
The University of Edinburgh

Commendation of Contribution
Ali Clark, University of Stirling
Scotland Group Chair

I am recommending Ali Clark, University of Stirling for a commendation of contribution.

This is in recognition of her term as Chair of HELOA Scotland. Ali was an outstanding group Chair. She demonstrated commitment and enthusiasm in developing the group and its members, and worked hard to raise the profile of HELOA at any opportunity.

She also oversaw the Scotland group winning their first ever HELOA Group Award in recognition of the HELOA Scotland Conference.

Louise Irving
Abertay University

Commendation of Contribution
Jamie Graney, University of Liverpool
VC Membership and Comms, North West and Northern Ireland

Jamie Graney has been in the role of VC Membership and Comms for the North West and Northern Ireland group since Nov 2017. His effort, time, creativity and positivity has been second to none and I know members in our group will feel the same.

Jamie always goes above and beyond to support and welcome existing and new members. During his time as VC Comms and Membership, he has been integral in devising and launching our award winning mentoring scheme and supporting colleagues in other groups across the country to help start their own. Over the last year, he has also introduced a bi yearly mental health and well-being digest with lots of links and suggestions to provide members with a one stop shop to assist their well-being over what has been a really difficult year for so many of us. In addition to this, he has played a vital role in getting our group back to physical meetings in the latter part of 2021 and his thoroughness and attention to detail has been commended multiple times, in making sure people felt comfortable and safe.

Jamie is not only a wonderful and inspiring colleague but a fantastic role model for people in our roles and embodies everything HELOA is and stands for. Thank you for everything over your three year term Jamie.

Chris Mullen
Edge Hill University

Commendation of Contribution
Joanna Marchant, Kings University London
VC Governance & Policy

The role of VC governance does not often have the spotlight cast on it as some other roles may, but without it the organisation would not be able to carry out even its most basic functions. Whilst being part of the UKC in itself does not warrant a commendation, it is true that the more you are involved the more potential to have a significant impact on the organisation is. Jo's impact is hard to measure as essentially it has transformed the organisation completely. Jo has led on the development of HELOA into a Charity, dealt with the vast amount of legalities involved and resulted in our registration with both the Scottish and English and Welsh charity commissions as well as putting us on the map for the Northern Irish commission. This has been a complex path that Jo has carved out, not only ensuring the external agencies received the relevant information but also educating our trustees and members about the various changes and requirements internally. Leading on from this Jo also established the risk register through collaborative and interactive workshops with the UKC to ensure we understood our risks and had mitigations in place for anything that could impact HELOA. Further more Jo has been a strong and balanced voice of reason within the HELOA executive, offer support, challenge and options over her term. I hope that these reasons and Jo's obvious impact will be recognised by our members through a commendation of contribution.

Jonny Atkinson
University of Liverpool

Commendation of Contribution
Michelle Terrell, The University of Edinburgh
VC Finance

Having held no previous role within the organisation Michelle took on the demanding role of VC Finance, an essential role in keeping the organisation organised, funded and compliant. The efforts that this requires would in many circumstances warrant a commendation in themselves however the challenges present in the past two years have asked for much and Michelle has excelled in all of her responsibilities and lent support outside of her remit too.

Joining exec meetings from Greece, yes really, is a humorous indication of the commitment Michelle has made to HELOA but really underlines how important she has taken this role and how invested she is in the financial security of our charity.

Michelle has worked tirelessly supporting, recruiting, selecting and training new financier managers to understand the complexities of processing our transactions. She has worked closely with auditors to ensure strict due diligence, and internally has been a stalwart regulator in ensuring our processes are followed correctly. Further more Michelle has been instrumental in scenario planning for the multiple possible outcomes as a result of the pandemic, and without her planning and pragmatism HELOA could have been in a much more precarious position than we find ourselves today. Michelle is hugely valued for her professional and personal attributes that have had helped to steer HELOA through trying times. I hope our members agree that a commendation is well deserved.

Jonny Atkinson
University of Liverpool