

Symposium for RSC Higher Education Technician Representatives

The Royal Society of Chemistry invites you to a one-day online conference style symposium and networking day for technicians working in higher education.

As supporters of the Technician Commitment, the aims of this inaugural technician event are:

- For technicians to network with other colleagues from across the country involved in chemical science technical provision
- To raise awareness of opportunities open to technicians to increase confidence and career development, as well as the profile of technicians
- For attendees to learn 'confidence building' tips
- To encourage attendees to return to their institutions with information about opportunities

The programme for the conference is as follows:

11.00 – Opening remarks

11:15 – Workshop 1 - **Annabella Byrne, I'm a Scientist**

Outreach without the 'out' - Connect with school students from your workplace

Research on science capital tells us that children think science is for brainy people. And then the outreach sector sends a bunch of PhD's to talk to them about it.

Traditional school outreach makes it difficult for technicians to participate. The online nature of *I'm a Scientist* is an easy way to get involved and dip your toes into the world of outreach, all from the comfort of your workplace. You don't need to present, you don't need to prepare. Just login through your web browser and type answers to the questions in front of you.

12.00 – Workshop 2 - **Helena Brown, University of Leeds**

Don't wait for the perfect moment, just go for it!

The purpose of this talk is to encourage you to take risks and pursue opportunities, in spite of all the reasons your brain is telling you that you shouldn't. I know from experience, and my colleagues, that we technicians never want to be in the limelight and have a huge dedication to our roles at the detriment of our own careers. I hope this talk can encourage you to take on high profile external and institutional opportunities, even when there are a million reasons why the timing isn't quite right.

12:45 – Lunch break and networking

13.45 – Workshop 3 - **Michelle Jackson, MI TALENT**

Building Confidence for Technicians

This workshop, run by a Technical Careers Manager with 30+ years of working in Higher Education, will share tips for building confidence as a technician. It will explore understanding Imposter Syndrome and strategies to overcome this, including the principles of positive self-talk.

14.30 – Break

14:45 – Workshop 4 - **Jiteen Ahmed, Aston University**

Decision Making Committees – the technical voice matters!

The talk will be exploring the subject on how technical staff can contribute to significant decision making such as Senior Management Committee to even leading committees such as Health and Safety Committees. The talk will also show how the technical voice has made impact with these committees and show how technical staff can get involved taking into account how to deal with the anxieties of getting your voice across.

15:30 – Finish

Email technicians@rsc.org for joining instructions.