Report on granted activity in the framework of the European Inventor Network

Name of the alumnus who implemented the activity:
Richard Palmer

ACTIVITY 1: Chichester College, 16th January 2024

Short description of the activity

1. A slide presentation to explain my career journey and an introduction to innovation and the innovation process. This covers innovation as an entrepreneur, and as an innovation consultant, with some case studies.

2. We then put the groups into 10 teams acting as a cross-disciplinary innovation team. I presented the client brief/challenge and explained the work that has already been completed by their colleagues, which will be a Foresight Scan to help them ideate and come up with ideas and concepts. The Scan signals were printed on cards and hung up around the room for the groups to read and help form the beginning of new ideas. The concept ideas were written /sketched on an idea capture card.

3. Each team presented one of their concepts (preferred) to the rest of the group at the end of the session. They did this by creating a gallery of idea concepts that were then reviewed by all of the students who 'dot-voted' for the best/preferred idea. The winning team then presented their idea to the whole group in more detail for feedback.

Audience (number and age of the participants)
40 students split into 10 x Teams (Mixed T levels, L3s & HNDs), they are all 16-18 years old.

Testimony
"Hi Richard, I met you last week at your activity that you did with the students at Chichester College. I was there with my HND students. I must say I have been to some events and been bored but I found yours really interesting and fascinating so thank you. I chatted to my students yesterday who said they enjoyed the session but wished they weren't working with the Level 3 course. We also completed a survey of how the students self-assessed before and after the sessions this is attached."

Student survey:
What have students learned about their own skills?
Student 1 - "You can't fail if you try your best."
Student 2 - "I'm more innovative than I thought".
Student 3 - "Communication is key".
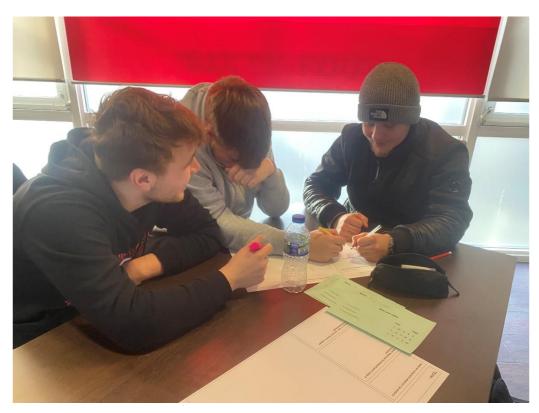*Student 4 - "I do have some ideas that can be implemented into everyday lives".*

Student Name	Confidence before (1 lowest, 5 highest)	Confidence after
	Innovation - 2 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 4	Innovation - 5 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 5
	Innovation - 2 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 5	Innovation – 3 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 5
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 3	Innovation - 4 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 4
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 4	Innovation - 4 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 4
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 5 Communication – 5	Innovation - 5 Enterprise - 5 Communication – 5
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 2	Innovation - 4 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 3
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 4	Innovation - 4 Enterprise - 4 Communication - 4
	Innovation - 3 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 3	Innovation - 4 Enterprise - 3 Communication - 4

Recommendations for future events:
I think the students got a lot out of the workshop where they had the chance to do something themselves in an interactive manner.

ACTIVITY 2: Varndean College 8th January 2024, and 9th January

Short description of the activity

1. Introduction and a view on Innovation & Entrepreneurship with a tiny bit about my history and being a designer.

2. Explaining the innovation process as it applies to the design of new things

3. Exercise/workshop as designers in teams to come up with new products and services for the connected home using the Horizon scan cards that were printed and mounted around the room.

4. Short review of each team's ideas / presenting back.

5. Template for scanning they can use for their own project (hopefully they will by now appreciate the value of a Scan, I can show the same for a footwear project as an example too)

Audience (number and age of the participants)
Session A Monday 8th 14:40 16 students, for the workshop / ideation split into 4 groups of 4.
Session B Tuesday 9th 08:40 16 students, for the workshop / ideation split into 4 groups of 4.
Session C Tuesday 9th 10:30 16 students, for the workshop / ideation split into 4 groups of 4.
Session D Tuesday 9th 12:50 16 students, for the workshop / ideation split into 4 groups of 4.

All students (total 64) are 16-17 years old. The sessions were 2 hrs 15 minutes long.

Outcomes and achievement
The design students are beginning a project this term to design a lighting concept. The workshop was aimed at providing the framework to help them innovate and come up with fresh ideas.
There was a recognition that exploring adjacent examples in the space in the manner of the Horizon scan I presented was a great way to start to think of alternative concepts.

Recommendations
I think the students got a lot out of the workshop where they had the chance to create something as a team.
I like the idea of a self-assessment before and after related to innovation confidence that we used at Chichester, I did not think of this until it was too late for the Varndean program.