

# BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

Sam Alvarez, Sussex Downs College  
Anne Taylor, Colchester Institute

# SAM ALVAREZ

- ◉ Course Leader (A Level Accounting, Business Studies, Economics, Law)
- ◉ Sussex Downs College (FE) - 1161 staff, 12,000 students
- ◉ Park College (sixth form centre) - 204 staff, 1,200 students



# ANNE TAYLOR

- ◉ Programme Leader (Foundation Degree in Business Administration)
- ◉ Colchester Institute - mixed-economy college linked to Essex University - 1,150 staff, 14,000 students



# HOW SAM GOT STARTED

- ◉ New to teaching - poor set of A level results!
- ◉ MTeach - addiction started!
- ◉ Small enquiry into assessment for learning - funded by Institute for Learning - addiction heightened
- ◉ Last year - bigger enquiry into assessment for learning - funded by LSIS - addiction incurable
- ◉ This year - enquiry into how to make joint practice development a reality - funded by LSIS

# AND HOW ANNE GOT STARTED

- ◉ Late starter - to teaching!
- ◉ And the fire slowly burned - got to be better than my own experience of teaching and learning
- ◉ Last year - is research the answer? Project funded by LSIS - investigation into peer assessment and independent thinking
- ◉ This year - came back for more (also addicted!) - looking at supported experiments to improve teaching and learning

# IMPACT OF ACTION RESEARCH

- On us...
- On our organisations...
- On our learners...



# BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

- ◉ At Sussex Downs College...
- ◉ At Colchester Institute...



# SURPRISES/CHALLENGES



**OVER TO YOU!**