



REGENERATING OUR REGION

EXTENDING EDUCATION, INSPIRING OPPORTUNITY

“The University of East London has come a long way over recent years and, like Canary Wharf, has played a major role in the regeneration of our region. Today East London is buzzing, and UEL fully deserves its growing national and international reputation for excellence.”

George Iacobescu CBE, Chief Executive Officer of Canary Wharf Group plc, on the occasion of our Business School Award Ceremony, November 2007.

The development of Thames Gateway, the completion of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and the advent of the London 2012 Games are having a major impact on east London, bringing thousands of new jobs and businesses to our region.

We are a key player in a number of regeneration partnerships that aim to enhance the entrepreneurial profile and knowledge-based infrastructure of the region, including the Thames Gateway London Partnership, The Royal Docks Partnership, Creative Way and Knowledge East. In 2007, we helped found the new Stratford Renaissance Partnership, chaired by Sir Christopher Benson, a powerful new grouping committed to achieving a long term shared vision for ‘greater’ Stratford including Stratford City and the Olympic Park.

Our proud record of extending access to higher education and widening participation to people from traditionally under-represented backgrounds has resulted in one of the most diverse student populations in the UK, one that reflects the socio-economic and multicultural diversity of our communities.

In 2007, we forged new partnership with schools, colleges and community groups across London and the South-East to deliver integrated 14-19 progression partnerships. Staff and student ambassadors from our Education and Community Partnerships team worked in schools and colleges across London, and provided advice and guidance to young people at events around the country. We hosted visits by thousands of 14-19 and even younger students on a range of summer schools, master-classes, public lectures, educational and cultural events throughout the year, and organized



◀ Aerial view of Docklands, featuring the UEL campus, London City Airport, the ExCel Exhibition Centre and the O2 Arena

▼ Our Sustainability Research Institute is pioneering new forms of recycled building materials



events including the Aim Higher programme, technology challenge, and the annual Salters' Festival of Chemistry in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry.

We are committed to raising aspirations and skills and transforming life-chances, not only for our own students, but also for the wider communities we serve. Through our Matrix-accredited pre-entry advice and guidance, New Beginnings access programmes for adult learners, language and skills support, IT training and coaching, and employability and enterprise services, we provide genuine opportunities for lifelong learning. We positively encourage students with disabilities, and support them through assessment, assistive technologies and employment mentoring programmes. ■

Health and wellbeing are particularly vital issues for our region, and for London as a whole. 2007 marked the launch of the Well London health intervention programme, developed with the London Health Commission and partners across the capital. The partnership was awarded over £9.4m from the Big Lottery Wellbeing fund to work in twenty of London's most disadvantaged areas to make real, measurable impacts on people's physical and mental health.

Sustainable development – achieving economic and social benefits while protecting our ecological support systems – is another critical challenge. Our Sustainability Research Institute was created to research and develop the innovative eco-efficient technologies that will make this happen in Thames Gateway. In 2007, director Darryl Newport and his team have successfully undertaken consultancy

work with Barking Riverside, the Centre for Alternative Technology, English Partnerships, the Environment Agency, Gunpowder Park, the London Sustainability Exchange and the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

Working in partnership with University College London through the Building Sustainable Communities 'UrbanBuzz' programme, supported by the Higher Education Innovation Fund, and with other leading universities through the Knowledge East partnership, we are seeking to bring together knowledge from architecture and the built environment, civil engineering, new materials technologies, GIS, pipeline technology, renewable energy, flood defence, environmental science and biodiversity conservation. ■