



Champions Newsletter

April 2018

Dear Champions,

We are a quarter of the way through 2018 already (!), so it's time for another Champions update.

In February, we passed a big milestone with over 200 GSE Champions (you now total 204) signed up to raising the profile of GSE! This time last year, the network totalled around 80 — we are growing fast.

Huge thanks for your continued commitment to championing GSE in your departments.

Check out some of the upcoming information and opportunities for Champions below:

1) Champions Networking Event, NPL, 23 May 2018 – Save the Date!

The GSE Team will be running a networking event for Champions at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), on Wednesday 23 May. If you were a Champion this time last year, you may have attended a similar event at the Met Office HQ in Exeter. From your feedback, you really enjoyed the chance to meet other Champions, hear stories and advice from a diverse panel, and share both your praise and grievances with the network, and this year you will have similar opportunities, with science talks and tours, a panel discussion, and a workshop session (and, of course, a free lunch). **A full agenda will be circulated closer to the time.**

The event will take place at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, south-west London on Wednesday, 23 May ([directions](#)). You should have received a placeholder Outlook invite last week for the event, so **please accept or decline the invitation** so we know how many will be attending.

If you did not receive the Outlook invite, please contact gse@go-science.gsi.gov.uk.

2) Share Your Career Story – Expressions of Interest

Are you a government scientist or engineer with an interesting career story or journey? We are looking for volunteers at all levels across the GSE profession to share their career stories and journeys with us.

We are hoping to bring these inspiring stories to life at Civil Service Live in June 2018 where we will be participating in several panel discussions on “**Career development and pathways across the professions.**”



We are also planning to produce a mixture of short video interviews and blogs that showcase the modern face of engineering to support the [Year of Engineering 2018](#), which could feature on our ever-popular [GSE blog](#) and YouTube channel. Areas we are interested in covering include:

- Diversity and Inclusion, and what it means to you.
- Your current role as a government scientist or engineer and how it makes a difference.
- If you have an engineering background or you are currently in an engineering role in government.
- If you have had an interesting career path and would like to share your career journey. We are looking for examples in [specialist, deep specialist, policy and generalist areas](#).

Your contribution can take a variety of forms, from a short paragraph to a blog post to an on-camera interview — it's up to you! **For now, we are just looking for expressions of interest**, so **please put your name forward** and we will be in touch.

We think everyone has an interesting story in their career, and if there is another GSE member in your department who you think would be great for this project, please recommend them (please do check with them first).

Express your interest by the **end of next week, Friday 13 April** by contacting gse@go-science.gsi.gov.uk.

3) Civil Service Live 2018 – Volunteers Required

As well as showcasing GSE career stories, we will be running a stand/exhibition space at Civil Service Live events across the country, and we need Champions to volunteer to help run them.

It's a great L&D opportunity: a chance to meet senior civil servants (John Manzoni, Civil Service CEO, came to see us twice!) and civil servants from across the UK who are eager to learn more about what we do. Last year we were inundated with interest from parents keen to understand what STEM careers in government look like, so please sign up to do shifts at any of the following events:

- **Glasgow SECC — Thursday 7 June**
- **Birmingham NEC — Wednesday 13 June**
- **Blackpool Winter Gardens — Wednesday 27 June**
- **Cardiff City Hall — Thursday 5 July**
- **Newcastle St James's Park — Thursday 12 July**
- **London QEII — Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 July**

Email gse@go-science.gsi.gov.uk with your availability and we will be in touch.



Civil Service



4) Centenary of Women's Suffrage



2018 is the celebration of the [centenary of women's suffrage](#) in the UK, and GSE are proud to support the campaign. As part of the celebrations, institutions around the country can **volunteer to host the flag** for part of the year, as part of the [Suffrage Flag Relay](#). If you would like your institution to host the flag, please get in contact with us.

You can get involved in events near you — listed on the [official website](#) — and there is also £1.5 million available for local and community groups across England to run centenary events, which you can apply for [here](#).

5) GSE Bitesize Edition #3 – Available Now!

We recently published the third edition of GSE Bitesize, a collection of Learning and Development and employment opportunities. Keeping track of L&D events and job vacancies can be tricky, so GSE Bitesize is there to collect them all in one place.

Check out [GSE Bitesize #3](#) on our blog.

One particular event to note is Unconscious Bias Training, organised by GO-Science's Diversity and Inclusion team, which will introduce the techniques for challenging, preventing and removing issues of unconscious bias in the workplace. Email gse@go-science.gsi.gov.uk to take part.



6) Complete the Chartership and Accreditation Survey

A few months ago, we circulated a survey about chartership and accreditation to Champions, looking for your views on a routemap project the GSE team are currently developing. The project fulfils goals in the GSE Strategy to “*promote the benefits of professional accreditation in science and engineering and ... the importance of achieving chartered status and other professional standards.*”

Please complete the survey [here](#).

We have currently only had 19 responses to the survey out of 204 Champions. We know we can do better and aim for 100% Champions completion, so if you have not yet completed it, please do so — it is really important to us and will only take a few minutes. We will adjust the survey based on your responses before opening it up to the nearly 3000-strong cohort of GSE members, and your feedback will shape our plans for this work going forward, so your completing the survey would be very much appreciated.

7) Social Mobility Foundation – Support the Next Generation of Aspiring Scientists

The Social Mobility Foundation are looking for scientists to e-mentor the bright, young people they work with from disadvantaged backgrounds. From a State of the Nation [report](#), students on Free School Meals are 19% less likely to attend university, and 22% less likely to study a STEM degree.



The Social Mobility Foundation (SMF) is a national charity that aims to make a practical improvement in social mobility for high-achieving young people from low-income backgrounds. With the help of professionals, they support more than 1500 young people every year who have the ability to flourish in top universities and professions but who lack the encouragement and networks to help them get there.

As an e-mentor, you would support a sixth former by giving them the opportunity to have a 1:1 relationship with a STEM professional, particularly with a biology or chemistry background, who can communicate with them via email every two weeks. Mentors support students in a number of ways, including by increasing their understanding of their desired career and professional life. The mentoring relationship is extremely valuable in helping to guide mentees through their time on the SMF programme, their university applications, and in helping them to further explore their professional interests.

If you are interested in signing up to e-mentor please complete this [short form](#). For more information, head to [Ways to Get Involved at SMF](#), or **contact mentors@socialmobility.org.uk**.

Other Business

- i) **Coming up soon, we have GSE Leadership seminars, science communication training, economics training, guidance with networking in security-sensitive areas, and more GSE Champions STEM Ambassador training. Keep an eye out for these and more on the [GSE blog](#).**

Thanks for your continued hard work!

Tom
GSE Team

Email: gse@go-science.gsi.gov.uk