

## 2012 School Seminar Series

Waikato Management School

Te Raupapa



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

# Skills and employability in Wales: Dilemmas, Challenges, and Solutions Associated with Work-Based Learning and High-Performance Working

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012  
2.00pm – 3.30pm  
MSB.4.02

Professor Danny Saunders  
University of Glamorgan, Wales

### Abstract:

The seminar will explore employability skills and management themes within lifelong learning and introduce projects and policies for upskilling a wide range of private and voluntary sector workforces in the South Wales valleys. It will include a critique of skills agendas, including the development of high performance working, trade union learning, coaching, and the use of anchor companies - alongside some case study material. An additional interest involves the design and promotion of Foundation Degrees as well as bite sized accreditation within the workplace and the recognition of prior learning. The seminar will then introduce the creation of the *Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute* (UHOVI) as an example of community and business regeneration in the towns of Merthyr Tydfil and Ebbw Vale, following the decline of once dominant coal and steel heavy industries. It is hoped that this discussion will identify issues and methods associated with partnership working across organisations and sectors, including the formation of consortia within higher and further education.

**Professor Danny Saunders** is the Head of Lifelong Learning at the University of Glamorgan. His publications include *Key Concepts in Communication and Cultural Studies* (Routledge), *The Complete Student Handbook* (Blackwell), *The International Simulation and Gaming Research Yearbook* (Kogan Page) and *The Learning Coaches of Wales* (Welsh Government). Danny has contributed to a wide range of review panels and working groups covering the Future of Higher Education in Wales, Careers Services, Employability Skills, High Performance Working, Welsh Language Skills, and Learning Coaches. He is a Ministerial Advisory Group member within Welsh Government, and a former member of the Wales Employment and Skills Board. Danny is a chartered psychologist and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and in 2010 received an OBE for services to higher education in Wales.

**Presenter:** Danny Saunders