

ONE PRACTITIONER'S INSPIRING PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY

Thousands of teachers and trainers have developed their practice by joining the Society for Education and Training and making use of the many resources offered by the Education and Training Foundation. SET member **Annie Pendrey** tells her story.

My professional journey began with my aspirations to teach and a careers interview. But it was clear to me that, due to my working class background, my only real option was a two-year programme of study. And I would only be able to do that if I also helped to support myself with a 'Saturday' job.

So, this is exactly what I did, and I began my vocational journey by gaining a National Nursery Examination Board (NNEB) qualification in 1985. I spent many wonderful years educating and nurturing children from three to 11 and I feel privileged to have been part of their development.

During this time, I worked supporting children with special educational needs and one of many job roles was in a behavioural unit. I was also a teaching assistant helping children with speech and language difficulties.

A few years later I took the plunge and applied for university, the first ever cohort of the Foundation Degree in Early Years. I gained this degree while working full-time and looking after two children under four. It took lots of coffee!

It was my first encounter with higher education and it was at the University of Wolverhampton that I met lecturer Dr Jenny Worsley, who inspired me to continue with my studies and set me on a path to break barriers and rid myself of imposter syndrome. From there I went on to gain a BA, PGCE, an MA and then QTLS, and I began my professional career in both FE and HE.

My first teaching role was as a sessional lecturer in my vocational area



Early years – Annie Pendrey began her career as a nursery teacher.

of early years and very soon I became course leader for a Level 3 BTEC and Foundation Degree in Early Years, working in partnership with the lecturer who set me on my journey into HE.

It was while studying for my MA that I became involved in research and joined forces with Wolverhampton lecturer, Julie Hughes, who gave me the opportunity to deliver an MA module.

Every qualification I've gained has built up my resilience, enthused my passion for teaching and learning and made me a highly reflective lecturer. This led to me starting work towards Advanced Teacher Status (ATS) this year.

The ATS journey, and engaging with the ePortfolio, requires continuous reflection on the Professional Standards for Teachers and Trainers for both my teaching and my role within college.

The ATS process has reignited the researcher within me, as has my involvement in the Advanced Practitioners Communities of Practice professional development programme.

Working with the Education and Training Foundation (ETF) and Society

for Education and Training (SET) I am pursuing two research strands and am engaging with FE colleagues on Twitter. You can join in #UKFECHAT where I have hosted FE chats.

A new challenge for me is my work with SET in developing a Research Hub in Birmingham, working with Kerry Scattergood. Watch the SET website for details or follow @SocietyET.

My role today is as a professional development manager at Halesowen College with a responsibility to plan tutorial provision college-wide. In addition, I still teach my vocational area and the Diploma in Education, observing and mentoring trainee teachers.

I am the proud owner of a SET membership badge as I now also serve on the Practitioner Advisory Board (PAG), part of the governing body of SET.



Annie Pendrey is a professional development manager at Halesowen College. She is a SET member and sits on the Practitioner Advisory Group.