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PRESS RELEASE

UVAC CHAIR ASKED BY HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTER TO REVIEW PROGRESSION FROM VOCATIONAL LEARNING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Bolton, 13th May 2009: Minister for Higher Education David Lammy MP has asked Professor Joy Carter, Vice Chancellor of the University of Winchester and Chair of UVAC, to review progression routes from Apprenticeship, Diplomas and other routes and qualifications to higher education.

In his letter to Professor Carter, David Lammy stated:

'I am very pleased that you have agreed to take on this work which I regard as an important part of our overall HE strategy and in particular supports our ambitions to increase skill levels and improve social mobility. I know that, through your role as Chair of UVAC, you have been involved in these issues for some time and that you are a strong believer in promoting higher vocational learning and work-based routes to HE.'

Professor Carter added:

'UVAC has long argued that all young people and adults following level 3 work-based and vocational programmes with the ability and desire to progress should have the opportunity to benefit from an appropriate higher education/higher level skills learning programme. I look forward to producing a report that will make a real difference and support vocational and work-based learners fulfil their potential.'

The terms of reference of the review are to:

- Review the research literature and evidence of good practice including piloting of new approaches to vocational progression
- Take into account Government commitments and recommendations from the Skills Commission

- Review the current vocational pathways and assess their strengths and weaknesses and how they might be developed to support Government aims
- Identify the specific barriers and issues to be tackled with vocational progression
- Recommend what changes would increase progression through vocational routes, including Apprenticeships, to HE
- Identify what each party needs to do – Government, employers, the education system and others and to consider to what extent universities need to review their systems to address the learning needs of those who have come up through vocational learning routes.

The report will encompass Apprenticeships, Diplomas and other routes and qualifications and will involve working closely with partner organisations

ENDS

Notes to Editors

About UVAC

Established in 1999, **UVAC** has a membership of around 100 organisations including higher education institutions, further education colleges, lifelong learning networks and a range of corporate members. UVAC was established by and is owned, managed and run for the higher education sector by the higher education sector.

UVAC aims to be the leading membership organisation involved in championing and mainstreaming innovation in vocational and work-based learning at all higher education levels. For more information, visit our website: www.uvac.ac.uk

Professor Joy Carter

Professor Joy Carter has been Chair of UVAC since January 2008, having been a member of the UVAC Board since 2003. Joy is Vice Chancellor at the University of Winchester and was formerly Pro Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs at the University of Glamorgan where she had responsibility for all academic matters, including Teaching and Learning and Quality.

Joy began her career as a lecturer in Sedimentary Geochemistry at the University of Reading, where she later became a Reader in Environmental Geochemistry and Health. She published extensively in the field and served on Research Council Committees and as Chair on the Board of the European Group of the International Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health. Joy later went on to become Dean of Science and Director of Science Research and Consultancy at the University of Derby. She has a particular interest in widening access and student retention.