Making use of Venture Matrix in project management modules

The Venture Matrix scheme allows students to work on mini projects that build on work they are doing on their course and develop their employability skills. These work-related projects last between 4-12 weeks and form part of the student's academic studies. The Venture Matrix team work closely with academic staff to ensure that the projects are appropriate to module learning outcomes. The projects are sourced from private, public (including schools and colleges) and third sector organisations in the South Yorkshire area to allow students to gain real world experience. These projects not only give the students the opportunity to put their theory into practice. But, they also allow them to develop their project management skills in scoping, planning, monitoring and closing each project. The Venture Matrix team provide 121 support for all students involving in these projects including CRB checks, risk assessment etc. The staff team also work closely with the students to assist the in building, developing and maintaining their professional relationship with the project provider.

Previous projects have included a group of final year psychology students meeting with the Sheffield City Council to create a series of workshops on managing team relations for pupils in Sheffield schools taking part in the BiG Challenge, a city-wide enterprise initiative. The psychology students created, developed and successfully delivered the workshop in a number of schools around the City.

"After working through the Venture Matrix, I have been able to apply my psychological knowledge and develop my employability skills. I have really enjoyed the experience" - Simon Kilpatrick, final year student (2010)

In addition, second year students worked with leading Sheffield-based charity St Luke’s Hospice, who wanted to raise awareness of its activities to the student community. The charity decided that a high profile event would help them meet this goal and proposed the idea of a fundraising fashion show. The planning and management of the event was given as a project to the second year Venture Matrix students, who were able to apply the theory learnt in their studies to a real life organisational challenge. The event was held at the platinum Suite, Sheffield United football ground and was a huge success.

"The collaboration with the Venture Matrix students has been a real investment in the future for St Luke’s Hospice. We can utilise the project plan the students produced in the forthcoming years, hopefully resulting in equally successful fund and profile raising our organisation. The students should be very proud of what they have achieved". - Abigail Batchelor, Community Fundraising Manager, St Luke’s Hospice (2009)