

## **Ken Bromfield, MBE: Independent Advisor**

He started his career in 1958 as a trainee medical laboratory technician in chemical pathology. During the next 30 years he progressed through all the technician grades at Chelsea and King's Colleges. In 1968 he was appointed as the biochemistry department chief technician, redefined following the 1972 national technical staff restructuring exercise and college merger, to departmental superintendent, a role that continued until 1989 when his career change led to his appointment as the Senior Training Officer at King's.

He was branch and London region secretary of ASTMS, covering a period of 15 years. He has also played an active part in the university lecturers' association. He maintains that this high profile trade union experience has been a powerful source of knowledge and understanding, contributing significantly to his own professional and personal development.

Ken has been involved in technician training throughout four decades. As a departmental superintendent, and trade union officer, he took a highly active interest in the development of colleagues' technical, personal and managerial skills and knowledge. He strongly advocates that professional added value, via training and development, is the most effective means to achieve job satisfaction and, ultimately, to successfully compete for job and career opportunities.

He champions a holistic approach to career planning for technical staff. This entails a deep understanding of the external change issues that may have a profound impact on an individual's career development, or even job security.

He has applied his technical and training experience widely. He worked as a British Council consultant and trainer for universities in Nigeria, Liberia and Libya, as well as HE institutions throughout the UK.

As a full time trainer at KCL, he devised and maintained '*Seminars for Technicians*'. This sustained London based training program was run for, and led by, technical staff from a cross section of SE Universities. Subsequently this served as a regional training model for other parts of the UK.

Currently, he has been recruited to devise, plan and process projects associated with the HEaTED initiative. This includes an ambassadorial role, working with managers of technical services and staff developers to devise and lead seminars in universities throughout the UK.

He is currently involved in debt counseling, prison inmate mentoring, school governorship, police liaison and choral singing (as well as the HEaTED project). All of this suggests that for him, his 'retirement' in 2007 was never going to be a soft landing.

Ken was awarded the MBE '*For services to Higher Education*' in 1994, largely for his involvement in technician training in the UK and in Africa.

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