

Dudley Students' Union Report to Corporation March-June 2022

It's been such a busy year here at Dudley SU, we are excited to report back on how we finished the year, and how we are moving on to next year.

This report is in layout of a timeline from March - June This report will highlight key areas of work under the DSU core themes of work which are:

Representation – we want students to get the most out of their student experience, DSU represents students, advocates, and campaigns on their behalf.

Skills development – we provide volunteering and training opportunities to prepare students for life and work

Creating community – by offering activities, events, clubs, and social groups we support students to get the most from their social life, meet new people and make new friends.

The timeline below demonstrates how our aims have been used and impacted students.

March 2022-

National and liberation conference with NUS took place, we had a total of 4 delegates attend this amazing opportunity in Liverpool where they raised awareness about the issues students in Dudley face, they spoke on policies, held the NUS officers accountable, and networked across a total of 4 days. This was important to us as we are affiliated to NUS, which enables us to get support and provides our students with a national voice, which strengthens our democracy and gives us the power to speak up nationally on topics Dudley Students care about.

For the students who attended, this conference developed all 3 of our key areas, meaning we **represented** ourselves and Dudley massively and spoke up about FE students and FE involvement, it helped with **skills development** such as public speaking, as Mollie and Lauren (VP welfare) spoke about mental health on the national stage, we continue to **create a student community** with other colleges and universities so that we could all share our best practices and help each other. Mollie even ran for Vice President further education, in the process of this she attended hustings where questions were asked, she campaigned asking students from all over the UK to vote, she did a 3-minute speech on the stage to ensure students from FE would vote. All though she did not get this role, we are all so proud of her and how much work she put in for this and are happy to still have her here. Most importantly, our delegation spoke on behalf of all students and had fun!



April 2022-

Autism acceptance was an amazing event run by our disability officer, Mitchell French. We gave away freebies relating to autism, made by our hardworking officers and volunteers. We spoke about the truths of autism, did spin the wheel and activities like true or false and just talking to students about autism in general. They gave students badges, sweets, fidget toys and the feedback from students involved was phenomenal. Mitchell said to us that it is so important for the community to understand and learn about autism, so we empowered and supported him to educate students. This falls into our first aim of representation, it represents autism, creates awareness and campaigns to get autistic students involved around college.



We finished and submitted the Green Impact student union ready for the audit, Mollie, Sophia and Aldrich led on this and changed certain aspects of the SU to be more green and sustainable in any way possible, we lobbied the management to change certain aspects of the college, for example increasing the green spaces around college, becoming a hedgehog friendly campus and saving energy, also promoting sustainability around college, we believe this has led the college to doing a sustainability stand at our freshers fayre.

May 2022-

Our students have achieved a outstanding number of awards and certificates this year and we thought we needed to celebrate these achievements properly. We organised a special day at the Mayors' Parlour for them with an awards ceremony for DofE, NCS, Holocaust Ambassadors and many more hard-earned awards!

The feedback from the Mayor and students where amazing and students had this once in a lifetime opportunity to meet the Mayor aswell as have a tour of the Council House and her Chambers. Students loved it and it was special for our staff team to see the smiles on students face and how happy they were to not only achieve this award but be presented to by the mayor of Dudley.



We attended the international day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia along with other staff and students from the college, we attended the Dudley Council celebrations at Coronation Gardens to show our support to the LGBTQ+ community. The speeches were moving, songs amazing and the whole event was just inspirational! It was a pleasure to meet Cllr Shaun Ceasey and Mollie also used this time to network and speak to the councillors, mayor, and students. This event came under **creating community** with local organisations, councillors, and students.

Mollie spoke to the councillors about a borough wide event she would like to do in collaboration with the council.

We then had meetings with the council and booked a date to do this event next May, so we are now in the planning stages. The council are very excited to be behind this and be bringing LGBTQ+ to Dudley!



Sustainability and Environment June 2022

We took part in the audit process for Green Impact Student Unions which covers best practice criteria, we shared information about ourselves and the college and how we have made ourselves more sustainable, what work we are doing and the impact it is having..

Find out more – Students' Unions | Green Impact | Students Organising for Sustainability (nus.org.uk)

We will be receiving our accreditation at the end of June and look forward to sharing this with the College and Corporation.

nus

green impact

We Socialise Too activity day – May Half Term

We continue to support students with additional needs to have their needs met and voices heard within the Union structures. We Socialise Too! Continue to be our primary method for engaging Aspire learners however we have now extended the club remit to any SEND member at college for certain activities and events

During half term they participated in workshops on cooking, team games, personal development.

Representation - We have worked with college management and Matt Dudley, leading on EDI for LGBTQ+ inclusivity for the college. We've heard many testimonies from students this year about how their trans or non binary status can be misunderstood or not respected. We want to support the college to ensure it is putting the inclusivity agenda at the forefront of their work. An inclusive environment will mean happier staff and students who can be free to achieve. We have met up with Kathryn Jones to several occasions to discuss and develop the trans inclusion policy ensuring student views are being listened to and enacted upon.

Queer Student Awards - It was very inspiring and rewarding for us to be shortlisted and nominated for the Queer Student Awards for Event of the Year category. We celebrated the hard work of everyone involved in our inaugural event, Queer State of the Union. We didn't win this award, but the judges did say it was very hard choosing between us and the winners and that they are inspired that young people are doing organising inspiring events

such as ours.

We also celebrated Sophia Daly's well-deserved win of Ally of the Year. See the judges quote about Sophia (right). As you can see, they agreed she is an inspiring, hard working and amazing person to have working for the SU and college. We are so proud, and all had a fabulous night, and are looking forward to another year of queer!

thequeerstudentawards Congratulations to SOPHIA DALEY @dudley_college winner of 2022 Ally of the Year, sponsored by @icaew



Judges' thought Sophia was an incredible ally - working at the forefront where she needs to and behind the scenes when it counts, giving her LGBTQ+ peers a 'leg up' when they need it. An asset to Dudley College – dedicated to empowering LGBTQ+ students and enabling a sense of community. Evidence shared of bringing others on the journey and getting senior buy-in and budget. A supportive ally pushing for change and empowering people to make change themselves - working at the forefront where she needs to, and behind the scenes when it counts, giving her LGBTQ+ peers a 'leg up' when they need it.



One judge said, "This one made me cry."



Just some smaller but important updates from us now-

We work on mental health in almost everything we do and were asked to help with a mental health audit that the college are taking part in. we have had multiple meetings to discuss our impact, what we do for mental health and how we work with the college on mental health awareness.

We were nominated for the west midland's mental health star awards and shortlisted, we were really honoured to be shortlisted amongst some highly esteemed organisations and extremely pleased for the young people involved, although we were not successful in getting the award it's a huge achievement and we are proud of everyone.

On the theme of awards mollie was a judge at the national student volunteering awards.

Elections-

Our presidential elections took place at the end of June, and we are happy to announce that Mollie Hehir is President elect 22/23 and staying for a second year in term as president. We are excited to have another great year and have so much fun and fantastic things planned! Mollie said 'If there are any questions about my second term and what I am doing for students as outlined on my manifesto, please ask! Mollie said when elected "'Thank you to all those that voted for me to continue in the role of President. also, thanks to my fellow opponents who fought a hard campaign very positively. I just love the SU and am so proud to be involved and leading the organisation for another year. The SU offer so many amazing opportunities and fight for what our students need and want, such as the transgender inclusion policy. I hope that I will see lots of our members (students) involved next year - its going to be epic' Everyone had an amazing time campaigning and all kept fair to each other throughout.

We hope you have found this report an interesting insight into the activity of Dudley Students' Union. We have not been able to include everything only highlights so if you

have further questions or would like to know more of what we do please contact us at

student.union@dudleycol.ac.uk or pop in to see staff and student officers at Room B4/B5

Broadway Campus.

We also have a range of social accounts you may wish to follow us on Facebook, Instagram,

Tik Tok or Twitter.