



THE Awards 2019 – Outstanding Entrepreneurial University

Institution/Nominee	University of Central Lancashire
Title	Centre for SME Development
Key personnel	Professor Sue Smith
URL	www.uclan.ac.uk/sme
Submission	<p>This submission is the story of how the Centre for SME Development has transformed the nature of entrepreneurial activity at UCLan. As well as being a gateway for regional SMEs to access services across the university, it houses both a student enterprise hub (Propeller) and the Preston Model initiative, which works with other anchor institutions in the region to create socially innovative impact.</p> <p>The Centre provides a means by which Communities of Practice can develop, thrive, interconnect and network. Crossing the academic/student/alumni/business boundaries and providing specialist support and space to these communities by creating Communities of Practice is a ground-breaking model; allowing for knowledge exchange, learning, value creation and positive impact.</p> <p>This approach to fostering innovation, enterprise and networking across campus and beyond has resulted in a sea-change in our environment and has created a transferable model.</p>