The Flight Simulator Initiative

The flight simulator is an immersive experience that gives people the opportunity to pilot an aircraft from inside a virtual cockpit. This activity has been hugely popular in public engagement over the years, being used within MACE and more recently being taken to outreach events around the country. Dave Golding, a technical coordinator for estates in MACE, has been the lead for this activity for many years now, engaging people of all ages. Most recently Dave has led simulator team at the #ScienceX festival (2016-17), at the Manchester Airport "Into the Blue" exhibition (2016), at the UoM Community Open Day (2017), and the Infinity Science and Technology Festival in Cumbria (2017). Dave's work has engaged over 1,000 members of the public for a broad range of social and educational backgrounds, including in MACE's Widening Participation initiatives.

How Dave has Made a Difference

Dave has made a difference by training and leading a team of engineers in MACE to deliver an exciting and immersive piloting experience. Dave's simulation activity has engaged people of all ages, and inspired many young learners to consider a future in engineering. By building and up-skilling a team of staff and postgraduates with the skills to run the activity, Dave has made this a sustainable initiative that will form the foundation of many MACE public engagement and widening participation events in the future. A highlight of Dave's outreach work was giving a World War veteran pilot the experience of flying an aircraft from inside the virtual cockpit - his first piloting experience since the war.