**Pan University Project: Enablers and Barriers for students with mental health difficulties**

Suz:

Hi, I am Suz Corcoran, and I've been working with my colleagues Chris Corcoran, no relation! Catherine Comfort and Giorgio Zampirolo, on a project looking at enablers and barriers for students with mental health difficulties. Our project explores the experiences of students with mental health difficulties, what supports them,

what holds them back and why many choose not to disclose mental health needs? Notably disclosure is more common in open learning institutions than at traditional universities. Students who disclose are statistically more at risk of underachievement contributing to the awarding gap. Our research is shaped by four key questions; one, why students may not make mental health declarations; two, why the awarding gap exists; three, how to reduce the awarding gap and four,

how to implement changes that retain and support students with mental health difficulties through their learning journey.

Catherine:

Initial scholarship points to curriculum and assessment design, cultural and

lived experience and tutor engagement as critical factors in student success. We're exploring these through interviews and focus groups with students and support staff. The goal is to identify where current recommendations fall short in practice and to co-create student formed resources that can be embedded across the learning journey. Ultimately this work is about removing barriers improving, support systems and helping students reach their full potential. Thank

you, Chris will be happy to take questions.