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Centre of Vocational Excellence in High Spirits

First College Skegness has invited students throughout the East Midlands to take part in a series of hospitality master classes to help raise their game and enable them to take on the rest of the world at UK skills events.

Spirit Recognition and Wine Tasting is one of over 60 master classes to be held across the East Midlands on 16 April 2008 with the rest planned over the next three months. The aim is to inspire talented young people to improve their vocational skills and learn about opportunities in their chosen career.

Hosted at **The Royal Hotel, South Parade, Skegness**, the class is open to young people already demonstrating a talent in the hospitality world and pursuing an Apprenticeship in the hospitality arena. Each student will experience first-hand demonstrations by expert tutors and restaurant managers in wine tasting and spirit recognition. The learners chosen to attend the master class will gain an insight into working at the highest levels in their profession.

Margaret Taylor head of hospitality at First College said: "In the past I have had learners who have taken part in UK skills activities but it has always been difficult to access training locally. I see this as a real opportunity for our local youngsters and hope they enjoy the challenge."

The programme of UK Skills master classes is funded by the Learning and Skills Council; Lincolnshire and Rutland area director, Nick Rashley said: "The UK participates in prestigious vocational skills competitions and it is hoped that some of these learners may have the opportunity to compete at a national level in the UK World Skills competitions or to represent our country at the next World Skills event in 2009. These master classes can be a stepping stone to global competitions and are an exciting opportunity for young people."

Dates for other First College master classes are:

Table Laying and Napkin Folding,
Butlins 23rd April – 11.00am – 4.00pm

Spirit Recognition and Wine Tasting,
Boston College Business Centre 7th May – 10.00am – 3.00pm

Table Laying and Napkin Folding,
Lincoln College 16th May – 10.00am - 3.00pm

Ends

Editors Notes

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First College is a registered charity and not for profit company limited by guarantee. First College operates in Skegness and Louth and is a member of the Work Based Academy in Lincolnshire and Rutland. It is a Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) in Hospitality and Catering. It provides vocational training, apprenticeships and qualifications in Accountancy, Business Administration, Childcare, Customer Service and Hospitality

through part time and full time courses. First College works closely with schools and can often provide vocational learning opportunities to those still in full time education. The college works closely with more than 350 companies and assist employers with their staff recruitment and staff training needs.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers. www.lsc.gov.uk

UK Skills is a not for profit organisation which champions skills and learning for work through competitions and awards. The organisation was established in 1990 with the primary purpose of raising skill levels in the UK through skills competitions and managing the UK team, which competes in the WorldSkills competition. In recent years we have widened the scope of our operations to include management of the National Training Awards and organising of skills related events. www.ukskills.org.uk

The master classes are open to a selection of trainees from across the region. There is also information on all local master classes - that range from motor engineering at Silverstone race track to beauty therapy with some of the UK's top hair stylists. www.fcte.co.uk

