

Training firm scoops new East Midlands Award

Date of issue 30 March 2009
Publication number em-25ProviderofQuarter-mar2009.doc

A training company which has helped over 140 East Midlands' business to access over £660,000 worth of funding in six months, has won the first ever East Midlands Train to Gain Provider of the Quarter Award.

Ufi Learndirect East Midlands, a consortium of 29 training providers, received the award at a special presentation at Pride Park Stadium in Derby, for helping over 700 employees from across the region to train in key sectors such as engineering and logistics, for exceeding last years total annual contract target by delivering funding worth over £660,000 within six months, and for being committed to quality.

Andrew Barlow, Train to Gain Director, Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands, said:

“This new award celebrates the success of those delivering Train to Gain funded courses in the East Midlands and aims to recognise how companies like UFI are making a vital contribution to the needs of employees and individuals in the region. UFI have done work that will have a genuine impact on companies across the East Midlands: lack of qualified people in the workforce is cited by a significant number of businesses as one of the top three inhibitors to success. Skills are vital to productivity and by providing training to high quality standards UFI are making an important contribution to our economy.

Teresa Watts, Regional Performance Manager for Ufi, said:

“We’re extremely pleased to receive the first Train to Gain Provider of the Quarter Award and be recognised for all the hard work and extraordinary contributions made by our providers. It also acknowledges the key role we are playing in supplying high quality training throughout the East Midlands, meeting employer demand and helping employees realise their true potential.

“We have strong relationships with our training providers and the Learning and Skills Council and these relationships have enabled us to develop the highest of performance standards and enable us to grow.”

Notes to editors

Photographs available contact Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 9712787.

The Provider of the Quarter Award aims to celebrate the success of delivery within the East Midlands.

There are over 90 providers delivering training across the East Midlands.

About Train to Gain

Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has helped over 570,000 employees in England get training, and over 291,000 learners have achieved a qualification. An evaluation published this year revealed that some 43 per cent of people who had completed their training reported having received a pay rise, and 30 per cent reported having had promotion. The overall budget for Train to Gain, which is available free to all employers, is set to rise to 1bn by 2010-11.

For more information about Train to Gain visit <http://www.traintogain.gov.uk>

About Ufi/learndirect

Ufi's mission is to use technology to transform the skills and employability of the working population to improve the UK's productivity. It is the organisation behind **learndirect**, the UK's largest publicly funded e-learning network, which last year helped 58,000 people get their first numeracy or literacy qualification.

learndirect Business provides online and work-based training to help companies develop and become more efficient, ranging from certificates in basic adult numeracy and literacy through to NVQs and university level qualifications, plus over 150 short online courses from short courses purchased online to more structured programmes leading to qualifications.

For more information about **learndirect** Business, visit www.learndirect-business.co.uk or phone 08000 150750.

**Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News and PR.
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