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Northamptonshire Apprentices and Employers Celebrated at East Midlands Awards Ceremony

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands hosted its Regional Apprenticeship Awards last night to celebrate the achievements of skilled and talented young people, and dynamic and passionate employers across the region.

Over 300 finalists and guests from Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Rutland, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire headed to the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham to see winners in each of the nine categories accept their awards in style.

Tom Crompton, Regional Director, LSC East Midlands, welcomed guests to the award ceremony sponsored by EM Plus, and award sponsors , LANTERN, Rolls Royce, TNG and Training Services 2000 and Train to Gain, with Maggie Philbin, former presenter on the BBC's Tomorrow's World series, and now a BBC radio presenter, playing host for the evening.

Tom Crompton said: "With the Government's recent announcement about Apprenticeships and how they will play a central role in its plans for growing skills in the economy, it's clear to see how vital apprentices and those companies supporting them are in helping to combat the skills shortages across the region. The economy depends upon skilled

individuals across the whole spectrum of vocational learning and it is important that we recognise the high achievements in these fields.

“The awards are an opportunity to celebrate just a sample of the excellent results being achieved across the East Midlands. Everyone who has taken part: our learners, training providers and employers should all be very proud of their achievements.”

All regional finalists will go forward for consideration in the LSC's national Apprenticeship Awards 2008, with an awards ceremony on 10 July 2008 at the Royal Horticultural Halls in central London.

Award Winners

Small Employer of the Year Award, 10-49 Employees, sponsored by Train to Gain - Acknowledges employers' commitment to developing young people through Apprenticeships.

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Corby, Northamptonshire. The company currently employs 41 people, three of which are undertaking Apprenticeships and a further four who are undertaking Advanced Apprenticeships in either Business Administration or AAT Accounting with learning provider Starting Off in Kettering.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of 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. Visit www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands

About Apprenticeships

- There are currently 244,000 young people aged 16-24 undertaking an Apprenticeship nationally and nearly 18,000 in the East Midlands. They can choose from over 180 career paths in 80 different sectors of industry and commerce.
- Apprenticeships provide 16-24 year-olds with a mixture of on and off-the-job training while they are being paid. For employers, Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to improve their businesses bottom line through the tailored, relevant training of highly motivated young people.
- There are two levels of Apprenticeships:
 1. 'Apprenticeships', equivalent to GCSE level, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 2; key skills and in some cases a technical certificate
 2. 'Advanced Apprenticeships', equivalent to A-levels, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 3, key skills and a technical certificate
- On 10th May 2004, the Government announced the introduction of Young Apprenticeships for students aged 14-16 and Adult Apprenticeships for those people aged 25 and over. Pilots for both are currently running.
- e2e (Entry to Employment) is designed for young people aged 16-18 who are not currently in education, employment or training. It can also be for people who may require a range of additional support to enable them to progress into education, employment or training.

