

Date of issue May 2008
Publication number Em-36appawardsDeniseDad-may2008.doc

Normanton girl celebrates at awards evening

A 19 year old from Normanton, Derbyshire, is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony to celebrate her achievements in work based learning.

Local girl Denise Dad received the award for the 'Entry to Employment' - Learner of the Year, sponsored by the Learning and Skills Council at the Regional Apprenticeship Awards. The event was hosted by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands on the 20th May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Denise, who has completed her Entry to Employment (e2e) course and is currently undertaking an Access course at Derby University, said: "I struggled a lot at school and didn't do very well. being a full-time carer for my mum meant I couldn't go to school every day and my attendance and school work suffered. When I started the e2e course I needed English and Maths equivalents to get on to Access course and not only did I achieve what I needed, I gained a lot of confidence and built up my self esteem. It was hard work but with the support from my family I started to believe I could do it."

Tom Crompton, regional director, LSC East Midlands, 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.”

Kara Birch, who nominated Denise and was her e2e tutor at Carter & Carter commented: “Denise’s commitment to the e2e course, her future career and dedication to caring for her mother is admirable. She showed a real thirst for learning and was very able but lacked self-confidence. After lots of hard work on Denise’s part she passed her qualifications in a record 10 weeks. Denise never had the chance to socialise with friends due to her being a primary carer, being in an environment where she could talk to other students and tutors really helped to build her self-esteem. She manages to juggle the responsibilities of being a carer with her studies, Denise demonstrates a maturity and selflessness that is commendable in a young person of today.”

Denise concludes: “I learnt a lot whilst on the e2e programme, it improved my communication skills and confidence as I interacted with more students and worked as part of a team. When I finish my Access course in July, I plan to study a Psychology degree and I’ve already had three conditional offers. If it wasn’t for the e2e course I probably wouldn’t have got this far, it helped me to go one step further and hopefully be successful in achieving my goals in life.”

Young people taking part in Apprenticeships or an e2e work-based-training programme, nominated by employers, training providers or individuals are recognised at the Regional Apprentice Awards, as well as companies that continue to support staff in Apprenticeship training, for their exceptional achievements.

Ends

For further press information please contact: -

Redbrick Communications: - Lizzie Carr or Helen Shorrocks, **Tel: 0115 910 1500**
LSC East Midlands: - Linda Penrice, **Tel: 0116 228 1849**

Notes to Editors:

- The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

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.