

Date of issue May 08
Publication number Em-42appawardscharteredinstlogistics-may2008.doc

Corby Company Praised for Excellence at Awards Evening

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in Corby, Northamptonshire is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony for its commitment to developing the skills of its staff.

The company, which employs 41 people, received the coveted title of East Midlands Champion in the 'Small Employer of the Year' – (10- 49 employees) category, sponsored by Train to Gain at the Regional Apprenticeship Awards. The event was hosted by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands on 20th May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Fiona Furman, marketing officer at CILT, said: "Our core purpose is the continuing development of people within the logistics and transport sectors. We recognise the importance of staff development and are committed to providing training and development at all levels. As part of our internal training programme we have now formalised the Apprenticeship scheme and placed it in the heart of our staff development programme. Our first apprentice started in 2003 and due to the continual impressive results we now have seven apprentices, which represent 17% of our workforce."

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."

CILT currently employ seven apprentices and work closely with training provider Starting Off. Dale Willis, managing director, says: "CILT are very enthusiastic about training and show the highest level of support, this is demonstrated through the extra learning that their apprentices have taken part in. The companies approach to training makes it a pleasure to recruit for them, we are able to attract talented young people to work for the company on the strength of their commitment and proven track record that they support and encourage role development."

Fiona concludes: "Both of our apprentices who have completed their programme, have moved on to complete Advanced Apprenticeships. In fact, we believe it is a significant fact that none of our apprentices have left CILT. Through retention of staff teams we have developed experienced teams who can consistently provide a high level of service to our members."

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.

All regional finalists will go forward for consideration into the LSC's national Apprenticeship Awards 2008 to be held on 10th July 2008 at The Royal Horticultural Halls in central London.

Ends

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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.

