

HAT TRICK FOR DERBY COLLEGE STUDENTS LEARNING AT WORK CHAMPIONS NAMED AT AWARDS CEREMONY

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Three Derby College students who have overcome personal barriers to succeed in learning have scooped Learning at Work Awards, sponsored by Train to Gain, Learning and Skills Council East Midlands.

At a celebration dinner for the East Midlands Adult Learners' Week Awards 2008 at Nottingham's County Hall, Caroline Price, 46, Angela Kerr, 50 and Ashleigh Paget, 21, were honoured for their achievements and presented with a certificate and a voucher.

Students are nominated by their tutors for the award, which recognises an adult learner who has made a significant effort to improve their life through learning at work.

The winners are:

Caroline Price, 46. She was bullied at school and left with no qualifications. Her determination to overcome her fears resulted in her leaving the factory

environment she'd always worked in and getting an administration job where she can use the IT skills she's developed.

Angela Kerr, 50, left school at 15 without any qualifications to support her family financially. At 17 she had to look after her six younger siblings and her father for whom she was the main carer until his death in 2005. Angela is dyslexic and had to overcome many barriers to complete an NVQ Level 2 in Food Preparation and an NVQ Level 3 in Hospitality Supervision. They've given her more confidence in her job role at Social Services and she has progressed to Cook In Charge.

Ashleigh Paget, 21, of Allestree has been able to change direction, from a career in retail she was not happy in, to a job in IT. Her continued learning at Derby College saw her being promoted in her new role and she is now training people in the workplace and providing complex IT support for her department. Her success has enabled her to gain independence by buying her own home and car.

Derby College Principal David Croll said:

"We're very proud that three of the winners of the Learning at Work Award are from Derby College. They have made tremendous efforts and worked extremely hard to overcome personal hurdles and get the career they want. They provide an excellent example to other people across Derbyshire of how learning can help people improve their confidence, pay and prospects."

Tony Belmega, Skills Development Director of Train to Gain, Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands, who sponsored the award, said:

"We have seen consistently high standards from all the entries in the awards and it is pleasing to see that their individual efforts are now reaping rewards for the

individuals, but the outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning of these three individuals and fellow winner, really shone through. Learning is vital to enriching people's lives and we'd encourage other adults throughout Derby and Derbyshire to be inspired by their achievements."

The Learning at Work Awards are sponsored by Train to Gain, LSC East Midlands.

Train to Gain is a service aimed at boosting the fortunes of organisations across the East Midlands. Since the service was introduced in 2006 by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), more than 5,000 regional organisations have used the expertise of the service's specialist Skills Brokers to help identify and fill skills gaps and many have gone on to receive training from approved training providers.

There were four winners in total for the East Midlands Learning at Work Award.

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Notes to Editors:

1. Full case studies and quotes from the winners are available from COI News and PR on the below number.
2. The Adult Learners' Week Awards recognise the commitment, interest and passion that adults bring to their learning. Awards are made to individuals, groups and families as well as to projects that make a real difference to learners. The nomination process for the 2008 awards has now closed. From late summer 2008 [you will be able to nominate for the 2009 Awards either online or using a paper copy here](#).
3. Adult Learners' Week 2008 begins on 19 May. The annual week long national campaign is celebrated in over 40 countries and is designed to inspire people to pursue adult learning.
4. For more information about Train to Gain visit <http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>

Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News and PR. For media interviews or for further information contact Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 9712787