

## **LEARNING LEADS TO BETTER LIFE FOR TRESHAM STUDENT**

### **LEARNING AT WORK CHAMPIONS NAMED AT AWARDS CEREMONY**

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A Tresham Institute student who has overcome language barriers and succeeded in learning has scooped a Learning at Work Award, 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, Daniela Putina, 40, was honoured for her achievement 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.

Daniela was born in Romania and lived there until she was 34. Both herself and her husband worked all the hours they possibly could, but were unable to improve their lives due to the standard of living in Romania. Her husband moved to Northampton to build a better life for Daniela and their daughter. They joined him two years later. For the first six months, Daniela relied on her husband to translate for her, which left her feeling really frustrated and upset.

Tresham Institute has worked with her present employers, Dalepak in Northampton, for five years, putting on ESOL provision in the workplace for their staff. When Daniela started as a temp she began to attend the classes after her shift and also obtained books to teach herself in the evenings. Through hard work and commitment she passed her L 1 reading and is now studying towards L1 SL and writing. Her goal is to go onto L2 literacy so she can progress to the ILM Supervisory Award.

After three months at Dalepak Daniela was made permanent and one year on she has been promoted to Production Team Leader in her workplace and is highly respected by her employers.

Daniela said:

“Learning has given me an opportunity for promotion in work and my personal life has improved in quality. Learning is the best way to increase your lifestyle for a better future.”

Jackie Donoghue, Daniela’s tutor and nominator from Tresham Institute said:

“Daniela arrived in this country with no knowledge of the English language and through pure determination and hard work she has succeeded in getting to L1 standard. Daniela is now a British Citizen and extremely proud of her British passport. Daniela has done so well and I think she really deserves this award.”

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 their efforts are now reaping rewards for the individuals, but the outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to learning of Daniela and her fellow winners really shone through. Learning is vital to enriching people’s lives and we’d encourage other adults throughout Northamptonshire to be inspired by Daniela’s 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.

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editors:**

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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 Learner’s 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**