

LEICESTERSHIRE TRAINING FIRM PROFIT FROM NVQ SUCCESS

- 200th Learner Susan celebrates being first female candidate-

Date of issue 19 June 2008
Publication number em-65TTGKeithCooktraining.doc

A specialist Leicestershire training firm is celebrating signing up their 200th candidate in NVQ Level 2 Plant Operations, with help from Train to Gain, the Government's flagship skills service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) aimed at helping businesses to succeed.

Keith Cook Training Services near Coalville, started to run their courses in May 2007. The success of the NVQ has meant the company, who specialise in training East Midlands' plant operators, from forklift truck drivers to dump truck drivers, has had to take on four new members of staff – three new trainers and assessors and one administrative assistant.

Keith Cook, Managing Director for Keith Cook Training Services said:

"We recognised there was a huge demand for the NVQ Plant Operations Level 2 as it is now a requirement to hold this qualification in order to operate plant on major construction sites. With the help of the LSC, we have been able to offer this qualification to our existing customers and many are only too pleased to help their staff to achieve the qualification, in line with Government recommendations.

“It’s been a huge success and we’re thrilled to be signing up our 200th learner, Susan Ottey, who’s also the first woman to sign up for the course. Susan has worked at Standard Soap in Ashby de la Zouch for 20 years, operating a counterbalance and a reach truck.”

Susan said:

“At first I was sceptical about the need for doing an NVQ as I’ve been doing the job for years but soon it will be an essential qualification for this work. I’m really enjoying it so far and it’s given me the chance to brush up on my skills. It’s also giving me greater confidence as I realise how much I do know. “

Standard Soap’s Personnel Officer June Hart said:

“So far three of our employees have done the Plant operations NVQ and we’re really pleased with how it’s going. The assessors at Keith Cook have worked really hard to tailor the NVQs to the staffs’ specific jobs and to ensure the training has fitted around their working pattern.”

Tony Belmega from the LSC East Midlands said:

“We’re extremely pleased with the success of Keith Cook Training Services and the positive impact this is having on businesses across the East Midlands in improving their productivity and competitiveness by making sure their employees have the right skills to do the job.”

For more information on Train to Gain telephone 0845 057 1817, text TRAIN to 64446, register at www.iwanttotrain.com or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

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Notes to Editors:

1. Photographs are available on request, call Helen Clarke at COI News & PR East Midlands on 0115 971 2787 or helen.clarke@coi.gsi.gov.uk

2. What is Train to Gain?

Train to Gain is a Skills Brokerage service, managed and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) that helps employers find the training they need for their employees. Train to Gain links employers with skills brokers who work individually with them to find out what their employees' training needs are, work out a training plan, and then help to find the right training for them. The Train to Gain Skills Brokerage service is free and impartial.

3. What does Train to Gain offer employers?

These days, making sure your business is more productive and competitive is a real challenge. The Train to Gain service can help you get the right skills to do the best job, through improving access to good quality training. It's a service that does three things:

- It provides a free and independent look at what skills your business needs – now and in the future. An independent Skills Broker who knows your region and your industry works with you to find out what training could make a real difference to your business.
- It helps you pick the right people to do training. Once you and the Skills Broker find out what your business needs are, they then work with you to find the right training provider. It's important that the training is done in a way that meets your business' needs.
- It helps you get the most from your training investment. The Skills Broker can also help find out the best ways to pay for the training, since they know what financial support might be available to you.

Issued on behalf of the Learning and Skills Council by COI News & PR East Midlands, media enquiries to Helen Clarke on 0115 971 2787 or helen.clarke@coi.gsi.gov.uk