

PRESS RELEASE

LEICESTERSHIRE FORKLIFT TRUCK DRIVERS *TRAIN TO GAIN* AT BRETT LANDSCAPING

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Thirteen forklift truck drivers from Leicestershire are celebrating after completing Level 2 NVQs in Plant Operations, thanks to Train to Gain, a service funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses succeed.

Leicestershire's Brett Landscaping, based near Loughborough, enlisted the support of Train to Gain Skills Broker, James Lund, to find the most suitable courses to develop the skills of its workforce.

Simon Titchener, 43, from Barrow upon Soar, received his certificate today. He said: "It's great to know that the company I work for is so keen to help us be the best at what we do. I have learnt a lot from the NVQ course and hope I can take the next level too."

Production manager, Duncan Robertson, said: "Brett Landscaping is committed to giving its workforce the chance to develop their skills and qualifications, which they will be able to put into practice here and use long into the future.

"We wouldn't have been able to do this without the fantastic support of the Train to Gain service and we will continue to work with James to coordinate more NVQ Level 2s and higher level qualifications too."

Train to Gain Skills Broker James Lund said: "It is really encouraging to be involved with a company that is so committed to developing its workforce, and I am delighted that the first 13 members of staff have successfully achieved their NVQs. I look forward to supporting the company long into the future to help them with all their training needs."

All companies can access the Train to Gain service either by taking the Skills Pledge - a campaign to inspire people to improve their skills - or by contacting the Train to Gain helpline direct. Developing skills across the county is vital to increase productivity, support advances in enterprise and innovation and improve our economic well being.

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

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The NVQs were delivered by Keith Cook Training Services.
2. Brett Landscaping is based on Sileby Road, Barrow upon Soar, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 8LX. Tel: 01509 817187.
3. Photographs of Brett Landscaping are available on request. Contact Gaby Hateley at GNN or download from www.gnn.gov.uk
4. Train to Gain is a service run by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Train to Gain aims to improve productivity and competitiveness by making sure employees have the right skills to do the right job through: an organisational needs analysis, by making recommendations on the most relevant training and providing best value for money.
5. The brokerage service for Train to Gain in the East Midlands is provided under contract to the LSC, by East Midlands Business Ltd (EMB); a joint venture partnership formed by Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire Chambers of Commerce.

6. The Leitch Review of Skills, published in December 2006, warned that the UK must 'raise its game' on skills at all levels if it is to sustain and improve its position in the global economy. The Skills Pledge fulfils a key recommendation made in the review, at the heart of a new 'deal' where employers will be able to shape the skills system to meet their needs, in return for prioritising skills training at all levels.
7. The Skills Pledge is a voluntary commitment by employers to increasing the skills of their workforce for the benefit of the business.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY
GOVERNMENT NEWS NETWORK EAST MIDLANDS. FOR FURTHER
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