

HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY ALG!

GRANT HELPING 260 LINCOLNSHIRE AND RUTLAND LEARNERS FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL

Lincoln mum constructing dream career

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As the Adult Learning Grant today celebrates its one-year anniversary since the national roll-out in 2007, figures show that the scheme has soared to success over the past 12 months, providing financial support to 260 adult learners across Lincolnshire and Rutland. Take-up in this first year of national roll-out has hugely exceeded expectations and has proved just how popular the scheme is.

Further research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has also revealed that adults make fantastic learners, with 77% of adults in LSC funded further education provisions being successful in their courses. This proves that although adults may face some of the biggest hurdles when it comes to going back to education, they make some of the best learners.

In fact, ALG, which offers adults up to £30 per week to go back to learning, was so successful when initially piloted across the UK in 2003-2006, that the national roll-out was brought forward a year.

Yvette Medcalf, a single-mother of two from Lincoln is taking a step closer to achieving her dream career in architecture, thanks to support from the ALG.

Twenty-four year old florist, Yvette, has always wanted to be an architect. She decided that in order to increase her long-term income, and better provide for her two children Dylan (7) and new born Keena, she must get some qualifications. In September she began a two year National Diploma in Construction at Lincoln College.

Yvette said: "During my school years I didn't pay as much attention as I should have and left school with no GCSEs. But keen to work and learn new skills, I took a job as a joiner's assistant on a building site for a year, which I loved. I was all set up to start an apprenticeship, but fell pregnant with Dylan and took time out to care for him.

"I am really enjoying my National Diploma course and pleased to be a step closer to becoming an architectural technician. I'm currently looking for a placement at an architect's so would be pleased to hear from anyone in Lincoln looking for help! I wouldn't have been able to enrol on the course without the money from the Adult Learning Grant, which I use to pay for books and a vital internet connection."

Yvette hopes that once her two-year National Diploma is complete, she will go on to do a part-time course at Lincoln College, and then fully qualify as an architectural technician at Derby University.

She added: "It's hard work being a full time mum and doing my National Diploma, but I know it will pay off in the long run and give my children a better future. I also want them to show to them that they can achieve whatever they want in life if they work hard."

Mike Hoyer of Lincoln College Student Services, said: "The Adult Learning Grant is fantastic as it opens the door to further education for so many people who have been unable to because of financial restrictions. I hope that Yvette's story will inspire other's to find out about the Grant too."

Nick Rashley, Area Director, LSC Lincolnshire and Rutland said,

“It’s great to see how the Adult Learning Grants are having a great impact on the lives of adults across Lincolnshire, offering so many learners a helping hand in education. The grant can be used to help with anything from the cost of books and materials, through to childcare costs and really does give critical support to adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go back to learning.”

If you are thinking about going back to college it’s time to start looking at your options. ALG could help you – to find out if you are eligible visit www.direct.gov.uk/alg or call 0800 121 8989 today.

For details of courses at Lincoln College, please call 01522 876 220.

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For more information please contact:

Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 971 2787

Notes to Editors:

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality 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 young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

ALG is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for their first full level 2 (5 GCSE’s at grades A* to C or an NVQ2 or its equivalent) or a first full level 3 (2 A levels or an NVQ3 or its equivalent) qualification.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY COI
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