

## **Finalists from East of England battle it out to be region's finest**

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After months of searching for the region's top apprentices and businesses, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can today reveal the finalists of the East of England Apprenticeship Awards 2008. Employers and apprentices will now compete against the best of the region to be announced at a glittering awards ceremony on 9 May.

The Apprenticeship Awards are organised and hosted annually by the LSC which manages and funds Apprenticeships in England. Now in their fifth year, the Awards are designed to recognise employers who are successfully using Apprenticeships to improve business performance and the hard work and commitment of young people currently on, or who have recently completed, an Apprenticeship.

Each of the awards is judged on qualities such as commitment to training, contribution to a workplace and commitment to offering or completing Apprenticeships.

Caroline Neville, Regional Director for the LSC East of England said: "We have had a fantastic response to the call for businesses and apprentices to enter into this year's Eastern Region Apprenticeship Awards. All of the entries were of a particularly high standard and there are many positive, inspirational stories that I hope will encourage and inspire other businesses and young people.

"The finalists are evidence of the wonderful things happening in our region and the opportunities and advantages that Apprenticeships create for businesses and individuals. I wish all of the finalists the best of luck for the awards ceremony in May when the names of this year's winners will be revealed."

The winners of the East of England Apprenticeship Awards will be announced at an awards ceremony on 9 May at the Radisson SAS hotel in Stansted.

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### **Notes to Editors**

The East of England Apprenticeship Awards have been split into seven different categories and the short-listed entries are as follow:

- **Personal Achiever of the Year**  
Niki Hayler from Hertfordshire  
Chad Hogben from Norfolk  
Ashley Peace from Essex
- **Apprentice of the Year**  
Charlotte Nelson from Essex  
Daniel Ward from Cambridgeshire  
Dayle Warren from Bedfordshire
- **Advanced Apprentice of the Year**  
Phillip East from Norfolk  
Janet Mansell from Hertfordshire  
Matthew Summers from Norfolk
- **Micro Business Employer of the Year (1-9 employees)**  
Atlas Computer Systems from Essex  
Bliss from Lincolnshire  
Boldero & Filby Hair & Beauty from Norfolk
- **Small Business Employer of the Year (10-49 employees)**  
Fatal Attraction from Suffolk  
Mitchell & Rollins from Norfolk  
W F Capps-Jenner Limited from Suffolk
- **Medium Business Employer of the Year (50-249 employees)**  
John Michael Hair Design Group Limited from Suffolk  
Kings & Barnhams from Norfolk  
Specialised Management Services Ltd from Norfolk
- **Large Business Employer of the Year (over 250 employees)**  
Kier Residential from Cambridgeshire  
MBDA UK from Hertfordshire  
Thomas Cook UK Travel Ltd from Cambridgeshire

## **LSC**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.