

Adult Learners Celebrate the X Factor at Local Awards Ceremony

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It was celebrations all round at an Awards Ceremony to recognise the achievements of Adult Learners in Bedfordshire and Luton.

Award winners and nominators were invited to share in celebrating their learning and project success at the Adult Learners Week Awards for 2008, held at the Barn's Hotel in Bedford (yesterday/21 May). Local X Factor Star Beverley Trotman from Luton presented the awards and congratulated the adult learners on their achievement.

The Awards, organised by the Learning Partnership Bedfordshire and Luton with sponsorship from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) along with other organisations, were well received by the audience and learners.

Heather Maggs, Chair of the Learning Partnership said: "We are extremely pleased that Beverley supported our event. We would like to thank our sponsors too for helping to bring learning alive for others. The Awards have proved to be a great show piece for adult learning. By working together we can showcase examples of individual success that can prove an inspiration to us all."

Winners received a £200 learning voucher to redeem with a local training provider along with framed certificate at the event.

Ian Feekins, Partnership Manager for the LSC Bedfordshire and Luton who sponsored the Learning Champion Award, said: "The LSC is pleased to be associated with these Awards and understand how important it is to recognise individual learner achievement. By sharing in their success we can encourage others to take that first step to reaching their full potential."

Every year Adult Learners Week helps inspire thousands of people to see how learning could change their lives and give them the confidence to have a go themselves. Whether it is learning a new skill, learning for fun or catching up on skills they missed out on, the Awards allow people to inform others of their story and achieve recognition.

Adult Learners Week has seen more than 200 hundred courses and activities organised up and down the county taking place in workplaces, community centres, churches, museums, libraries, local schools, colleges and sports centres.

End

Note to Editors:

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Bedfordshire and Luton Adult Learners Week Award Winners

LOCAL AWARD WINNERS		
WINNER	AWARD CATEGORY	SPONSORED BY
Gwyneth Young	Family Learning	Bedfordshire Adult Community Learning
Bedfordshire Training & Assessment Centre (BTAC)	Learning through Partnership	University of Bedfordshire
Grace Sheldon	Learning Champion	Learning & Skills Council
Michael Baker	Lifelong Learner	Luton Adult Community Learning
Ashleigh Fraser	Adult Learner of the Year	Dunstable College
Dalip Mahrra	Adult Learner of the Year	Dunstable College
Pauline Wolfenden	Tutor of the Year	Barnfield College
Peter Males	Volunteer	Bedford Pilgrim Housing Association
Laurie Evans Senior Staff Rep & Learner Rep GMM Luton	Workplace	The Learning Partnership

All prizes sponsored by:

Bedfordshire Federation for Further and Higher Education

Sponsors:

Barnfield College
 Bedford College
 Bedfordshire Spark Adult Community Learning
 Bedfordshire Federation for Further and Higher Education
 Bedfordshire Libraries
 Chamber
 BPHA (Bedford Pilgrim Housing Association)
 BREC (Bedford Race Equality Council)
 Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations
 Dunstable College
 Family Groups

Learning and Skills Council
Learning Partnership
Luton Adult Community Learning
New Age Training
Train to Gain Consortia
University of Bedfordshire
VT Careers Management (Nextstep)
WEA (Workers Educational Association)

Beverley Trotman

Beverley won through to the final stages of the primetime hit TV talent show X Factor and gave the eventual winner a run for their money. She is from Luton and is a teacher in a local school.

Adult Learners Week 17 – 23 May

Now in its 17th year, Adult Learners' Week is a wonderful celebration of the energy and inspiration that adults bring to their learning. It seeks to use the achievements of learners to inspire others to have to go - whether it is learning a new skill, learning for fun, or catching up on learning missed at school. In this section you'll find more information about Adult Learners' Week.

The Learning Partnership Bedfordshire and Luton

The Learning Partnership (LP) was established in 2000 and its purpose is to promote provider collaboration in support of lifelong learning and to maximise the contribution of learning to local regeneration. The aim is to make Bedfordshire and Luton, a better place to live and work by helping to widen participation to learning for all, regardless of when, where or how people choose to learn.

LSC

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.