

Training consortium recognised for outstanding work with employers

East of England Train to Gain provider consortium named provider of the year

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North Hertfordshire College and The Consortium for Business have been named Train to Gain Provider of the Year in the East of England at a presentation today (16 September) at Ickworth House, Bury St Edmunds.

In a time of recession they have continued to grow the number starting on Train to Gain, up by 75% on 2007/08 with success rates of 83%. Robust processes combined with support and development of consortium members and sharing best practice has enabled a growth in employees achieving qualifications of 62%.

North Hertfordshire College is the lead partner in the Hertfordshire Train to Gain Consortium covering NVQ delivery in the workplace in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex. This allows the Consortium to offer a huge range of qualifications covering most sectors. They continue to explore opportunities for new provision and have established an unfunded rapid response service for employers to help them with downsizing.

Caroline Neville, Regional Director for the Learning and Skills Council East of England presented the Award to Fintan Donohue, Chief Executive and Principal of North Hertfordshire College and said: "The consortium has been chosen to receive

this award in recognition of its outstanding performance and responsiveness to the needs of employers throughout the academic year.

“Feedback from skills brokers has been consistently positive with the consortium praised for the responsive and dynamic way they manage enquiries and keep them updated.”

Fintan Donohue, accepting the Award said: “This award means a lot to North Hertfordshire College and its excellent partners. Two years ago, with support from the LSC, we committed to major investment in our employer responsive capacity, which has paid off.”

“Our Goldsmith Centre for Business has become a recognised Centre of Excellence for training and the outstanding success rates are a testimony to the quality of providers that make up the Consortium. This Award will give all of us in the Consortium a strong incentive to do even better in the future. We hope that more employers will see the Consortium as their partner of first choice.”

END

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Photos:

Group Photo: outside Ickworth House (from L to R: Karen Kelly (LSC), Jayne Henderson (Hertford Regional College), David Neal (The Consortium for Business), Caroline Neville (Regional Director for the LSC East of England), Fintan Donohue (Chief Executive and Principal of North Hertfordshire College), Gail Brench (LSC), Bev Jones (The Consortium for Business), Signe Sutherland (North Hertfordshire College), Mark Pike (Ridgemoor Training))

Presentation photo (inside and outside): Caroline Neville – Regional Director for the LSC East of England and Fintan Donohue - Chief Executive and Principal of North Hertfordshire College.

Photo x 2 holding award: Fintan Donohue - Chief Executive and Principal of North Hertfordshire College.

North Hertfordshire College and The Consortium for Business

<http://www.nhc.ac.uk/employers.aspx>

For more information, visit the Goldsmith Centre for Business website at www.gc4b.com

Train to Gain : Data at Period 12 (end July 09) shows that North Hertfordshire College and the Consortium for Business delivered 46.5% of all starts and 51.2% of all achievements in the Hertfordshire area and 7.3% of all starts and 8.5% of all achievements regionally.

Train to Gain

Managed by the Learning and Skills Council, Train to Gain is the government's flagship service to support employers in England, of all sizes and in all sectors, to improve the skills of their employees, unlock talent and drive improved business performance. A key element of Train to Gain are skills brokers who offers employers impartial advice and at no cost, helping them find the best training solution from high quality and responsive training.

As at January 2009, Train to Gain has supported over 570,000 learners to begin their learning programmes. Over 254,000 learners have achieved a full level 2 qualification. Over 16,000 learners have full level 3 achievements.

The service is administered by The Learning and Skills Council and delivered in the East of England region by The East of England Brokerage Consortium and The Consultancy Home Counties Ltd.

To find out more about how Train to Gain can help, employers should call **0800 015 55 45** or visit traintogain.gov.uk. Alternatively, individuals and employers can access the information they need on skills via a dedicated phone line and website. The phone number is **0800 011 30 30** or website: lsc.gov.uk/inourhands.