

## Skills Investment Pays off for London Business

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Matt Dawson, the former England rugby star and World Cup Winner-turned TV personality, has revealed the 13 winners of the Skills for London Awards to a packed audience of over 350 employers, finalists, guests and leaders from London's education and skills sector.

Held at The Natural History Museum, Kensington, the Skills for London Awards 2009, part sponsored by Headcount, are organised by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to celebrate the achievements of learners and businesses across the Capital. Categories include Apprenticeship Employer of the year, Young Apprentice, Apprentice and Advanced Apprentice of the year, Train to Gain Employer of the year, Learner of the year, Skills for Life award, Learner of the year and Training Provider of the year.

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, said: "It's fantastic to see such commitment from Londoners and businesses striving to improve their competitiveness. A strong and growing skills base is essential both to seeing the capital through these difficult times and to meeting the new challenges of the global market place that will emerge when the recession is over. I want to see thousands more Londoners take up the amazing range of skills opportunities on offer to ensure our city remains a winner too."

Jill Lowery, Acting Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council London, said: "The Skills for London Awards are all about celebrating people's commitment to skills and showcasing how this investment is making a real difference to business success. They're also about showing how skills can make a tangible difference to people's lives, their motivation, personal fulfilment and prospects. It's more critical than ever to find time for

training as it's one of the best ways businesses can make sure they survive the economic downturn. Seeing the achievements of those recognised today fills me with genuine optimism.”

Apprentice of the Year winner, Tedros Hagos, an Apprentice at Fifteen Restaurant, said: “My passion is cooking and I strive to make the best food possible for Fifteen’s customers. That’s why I do everything to the top of my abilities and it’s why I’m always looking at ways I can improve. The Apprenticeship has been one of the best things to happen to me and being chosen as the Apprentice of the Year is just the icing on the cake.”

-Ends-

### **Notes to Editors**

*Full details of all the finalists and photography from the event is available along with quotes from winning applicants.*

The winners of the 2009 Skills for London Awards are:

#### **Apprenticeship Employer of the Year**

- Micro and Small Employer – LA One
- Medium Employer - Kesslers International Limited
- Large Employer – Tube Lines
- Macro Employer - BT

**Young Apprentice of the Year**– Tashi French

**Apprentice of the Year** – Tedros Hagos

**Advanced Apprentice of the Year** – John Clarke

#### **Train to Gain Employer of the Year**

- Small Employer – AJC Wilson Bodyshop
- Medium Employer – Sitel Watford
- Large Employer – First Capital (East London)

**Train to Gain Learner of the Year** – Marie Brown

**Skills for Life Learner of the Year**– Alim Uddin

**Training Provider of the Year**– Landmark Training

The judging panel comprised:

- Carolyn Lewis, WBLA
- Ruth Lomax, Hackney College
- David Smale, National Apprenticeship Service
- Clare Oatham, Learning and Skills Council – London North
- Liz Haynes, Learning and Skills Council – London South
- Malcolm Rodrigues, Learning and Skills Council – London East
- Trevor Cook, Learning and Skills Council – London East
- Rhys Thomas, Learning and Skills Council – London West
- Anna Nikk, Learning and Skills Council – London Central
- Chris Smith, Learning and Skills Council – London Central

### **Learning and Skills Council (LSC)**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its 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. It works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers [www.lsc.gov.uk/london](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/london)

### **Skills for London**

For more information on skills or the awards visit [www.skillsforlondon.org](http://www.skillsforlondon.org)

### **Train to Gain**

Train to Gain is a service from the Learning and Skills Council, helping businesses get the training they need to succeed. For more information visit: <http://www.traintogain.gov.uk/>

### **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships are nationally designed training programmes for those who have already left full time education or are already in employment. They provide a combination of on and off-the-job training whilst being paid. For more information visit <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>

### **Media Enquiries**

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