

Ray Mallon backs regional awards

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The Mayor of Middlesbrough, Ray Mallon, has given his support to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East's search for the shining stars of education and skills.

Mr. Mallon, who first became Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough in May 2002 and was re-elected earlier this year, is backing the LSC North East's Celebration of Learning and Skills (CoLaS) Awards 2007, which have been designed to highlight the hard work of North East employers and individuals (over the age of 14), in proactively promoting learning excellence.

The Oscar-style ceremony, which will take place at The Sage, Gateshead, on October 12th, will see a total of 10 awards presented, with subjects ranging from arts and media, to pioneering recruitment and working in the community, a category with which former Detective Superintendent Ray Mallon, will be all too familiar.

Mayor Mallon is the second well-known and influential personality to give his backing to the 2007 CoLaS awards, following a similar endorsement from former Middlesbrough manager and member of the 1966 England World Cup-winning squad, Jack Charlton, earlier this year.

Chris Roberts, regional director, LSC North East, said: "Ray Mallon is a well respected and highly influential individual in the North East and we are very proud that he has chosen to support our efforts to recognise and reward learning excellence in our region. I know that there are a lot of people who very much admire Mr. Mallon for what he has achieved here, both as a Mayor and as part of the police force, and I sincerely hope they will afford our CoLaS winners, the same level of well-deserved admiration and esteem."

Mayor of Middlesbrough, Ray Mallon, said: "I have the greatest respect for anyone who tries to better him or herself and give something back to society in terms of the skills they can offer, in helping others and in the hard-working attitude they strive to project. The individuals being recognised in the LSC's CoLaS Awards certainly fit into this category."

For more information about the Awards visit www.lsc.gov.uk/colas07

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The CoLaS Awards is one of the most successful and prestigious award ceremonies in the North East. Currently in its second year, the 2007 ceremony will be the biggest ever held in the region, when 1,000 guests will enjoy a spectacular ceremony at the iconic sage in Gateshead. The region's business leaders will join key employers, politicians, journalists, representatives from the education sector and the families and friends of the nominees for an evening of entertainment and recognition of achievement.

These awards are for employers and individuals who have reached the very pinnacle of innovative, progressive learning excellence. Open to anyone over the age of 14 at any level of education, and any size or type of employer in the North East, CoLaS aims to recognise and reward investment and success in skills development.

The 10 awards categories in the Learning and Skills Council's Celebration of Learning and Skills (CoLaS) Awards 2007 are:

- Arts and Media
- Business, Enterprise and IT
- Construction, Manufacturing and Engineering
- Hospitality, Travel and Tourism
- Sports and Recreation
- Trade Union Life Long Learning

Pioneering Recruitment
Investment in Skills
Working in the Community
Outstanding Achievement

The Celebration of Learning and Skills Awards 2007, flying the flag for employers and individuals who are raising the standard of learning and skills development in the North East.

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.