

May Celebration for Lancashire Learners

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The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West has announced that it will host the Lancashire area final of its North West Learner Awards 2009 at the Dunkenhalgh Hotel, near Blackburn, on 19 May.

Around 200 apprentices, apprentice employers, further education students and VIPs will gather at the spectacular awards ceremony to discover who wins the prestigious awards. The Apprenticeship categories comprise Apprentice of the Year, Advanced Apprentice of the Year, Young Apprentice of the Year and Employer of the Year. Two awards will also be given to exceptional students in further education – the Further Education Vocational Award and the Further Education Academic Award.

The winner of each award will go on to compete in the North West Learner Awards regional final. Winners in the Apprenticeship categories could also become winners in the National Apprenticeship Awards, which are held in London on 16 July.

Last year, BBC TV Presenter John Craven presented the winners and finalists with trophies and certificates. The LSC will shortly announce the name of the presenter for this year's awards.

John Korzeniewski, Regional Director of the LSC, said "These awards recognise the immense talent we have here in the North West, and reward the hard work and dedication of the region's learners. They offer a great opportunity for colleges, training providers and learners to share their successes with the wider community, and for the sector as a whole to celebrate the impact learning has on people's lives."

Entrants can check groups on Facebook, Myspace and Bebo to get the latest information about the awards. These can be found at: <http://www.bebo.com/LearnerA>, http://www.myspace.com/lsc_nw_learner_awards, or if you're on Facebook search for the North West Learner Awards 2009 group.

Ends

Notes for Editors

About the Learning and Skills Council

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.

About the North West Learner Awards 2009

The LSC's North West Learner Awards recognise the achievements of further education learners, apprentices and apprentice employers from across the region. The awards comprise Apprentice of the Year, Advanced Apprentice of the Year, and Young Apprentice of the Year, the Further Education Academic Award, the Further Education Vocational Award, plus awards for apprentice employers. Winners in each category are honoured at awards ceremonies in Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Greater Merseyside and Lancashire; they then go on to compete for the North West Region Award for their category and those in the Apprenticeship categories are also considered for the national Apprenticeship Awards.

North West Learner Awards 2008 - Lancashire Winners

Employer of the Year: BAE Systems Military
Apprentice of the Year: Hajra Dawood
Advanced Apprentice of the Year: Mercia Woest
Personal Achiever of the Year: Victoria Snook
Further Education Vocational Award: Jamie Warren
Further Education Academic Award: Elizabeth Ritchie

Award Categories

Employer Awards

There are five categories open to employers depending on their company size; Micro (1-9 employees), Small (10-49 employees), Medium (50-249 employees), Large (250-4999 employees) and the new Macro size category that will cover businesses with over 5000 employees. Employers are assessed on a number of criteria including implementation of the Apprenticeship programme, clear demonstration of the way Apprenticeships have benefited their business and the level of support provided to their apprentices.

Apprentice Awards

Apprentice of the Year

This award acknowledges exceptional contributions to the workplace. Such an apprentice has exceeded expectations and delivered measurable benefits by, for example, making an important contribution to the development of a product or a special project.

Advanced Apprentice of the Year

This award rewards commitment to personal development and progression through learning, outstanding contributions in the workplace that have exceeded expectations as well as qualities which will inspire other apprentices to follow in their footsteps.

Young Apprentice of the Year

This award seeks to acknowledge exceptional achievements during the two-year Young Apprenticeship Programme. Judges are looking for young apprentices who have made the most of their time on the programme and who have demonstrated considerable progress both personally and in their studies.

Further Education Awards

The Further Education Vocational Award and the Further Education Academic Award acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievements and contributions through the learners' academic or vocational experiences, whether this is in terms of increased opportunity for themselves or for others.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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