

Greater Manchester apprentices in line for awards

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The Learning and Skills Council has announced the finalists in the Greater Manchester heat of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North West Learner Awards.

Nine apprentices from around the region will be competing for three apprentice categories; Young Apprentice, Apprentice and Advanced Apprentice. Six students from further education colleges will be hoping to win one of the two education categories, which are the Further Education Vocational Award and the Further Education Academic Award.

The finalists will find out if they will be taking home the prestigious award at a glittering ceremony at Manchester Town Hall on 14 May, which will be hosted by TV presenter Konnie Huq.

Each of the finalists beat applications from apprentices across the county to get to the final. They will all be presented with a certificate and HMV vouchers by Konnie, who said of the awards: "It's important to recognise and reward the achievement of young people, and also the employers who have the foresight to create opportunities for apprentices to shine and ensure their organisation develops a talented and committed workforce.

"These awards do just that, and I'm looking forward immensely to meeting all of the finalists and hearing about their successes."

The winner in each category could go on to be named North West Regional Winner, competing against winners from Cumbria, Cheshire and Warrington, Greater Merseyside and Lancashire. Winners in the Apprentice and Apprentice Employer categories could also go on to the National Apprenticeship Awards final, which will be held at Old Billingsgate in London on 16 July.

Entrants can keep up to date with all the latest news on the awards and see photographs of last year's events on Facebook, myspace and Bebo. They 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.

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Notes for Editors

The finalists in the Manchester heat of the North West Learner Awards 2009 are:

Young Apprentice of the Year

Lauren Dobson, Horwich
Eyaz Kaduji, Bolton
Myles McGrillen, Horwich

Apprentice of the Year

Jignesh Madhavji, Bolton
Andrew Fielding, Westhoughton
Kate Roberts, Littleborough

Advanced Apprentice of the Year

Chris Jenkins, Warrington
Beth Mills, Failsworth
Anna Marsden, Wigan

Further Education Vocational Award

Timothy Auluck, Loreto Hulme
Lun Yau, Pendleton College Salford
Jade Thorley, Trafford College

Further Education Academic Award

Joanna Woods, Bury College
Timothy Talbot, Cheadle & Marple
Steven Lawrence, Loreto Hulme

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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