

# NW Learner Awards 2008



Leading learning and skills

## PROGRAMME



The Lowry Hotel, Manchester  
22 May 2008



# WELCOME



The North West Learner Awards are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to highlight the importance of learning - to individuals and employers, to communities and to the future of the region.

The Awards form part of the LSC's National Award Scheme. This is recognised as the most prestigious awards programme of its type in the country - and when we see the finalists here tonight, we can see why.

The judges have discovered an abundance of talented individuals who have excelled in learning and improved their lives. They are equally impressed with the number of employers who recognise that the encouragement of learning and skills is crucial if they wish to develop their workforce and improve their business.

So my congratulations go to all those finalists here tonight. The standard of entries was particularly high and you really have excelled to win through.

My thanks must also go to your colleges, training providers, employers and families, whose support has been vital to your success.

*John Temple.*

John Temple  
LSC Director of Area for Greater Manchester

## DINNER MENU

### STARTER

Slow Roast Tomato Soup with Rosemary and Garlic Crouton

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### MAIN COURSES

Roast Breast of Corn-Fed Chicken with Madeira Jus, French Beans and Fondant Potato

Or

Red Onion and Feta Cheese Tart Tatin with Sweet Wine Jus

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### DESSERT

Pavlova with Cherries and Honey Toasted Almonds

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### TEA AND COFFEE

## GUEST OF HONOUR: JOHN CRAVEN OBE



One of the BBC's most long-standing presenters, John Craven is today best known for presenting Countryfile, BBC One's current affairs programme highlighting rural and environmental issues. He began presenting Countryfile in 1989, after many years fronting and editing John Craven's Newsround, which made him a household name.

Born in Leeds, John started his journalistic career on local newspapers as a junior reporter, before moving on to become a freelance correspondent for national newspapers. He joined the BBC as a news writer in Newcastle upon Tyne, later moving to Bristol as a

reporter with regional television.

In 1971, he made his debut as a network television presenter on Search, a current affairs magazine programme for children. The following year saw the launch of Newsround, the first television news programme in the world to report directly to children (although it was also watched by millions of adults!). John stayed for more than 3,000 editions, spending 17 years with the programme, becoming its editor and filming special reports in more than 40 countries.

From 1976 to 1986 John was also a regular presenter on Saturday morning television, first on Swap Shop with Noel Edmonds, and then with Mike Read on Saturday Superstore.

John travels thousands of miles a year around the UK and Europe for Countryfile which, like Newsround, is a groundbreaking programme. From exclusive reports on major concerns, to items that reflect the character and beauty of rural Britain, Countryfile is a

weekly 'must' for many viewers.

When not broadcasting, John is busy with corporate work, frequently speaking at engagements and making personal appearances around the UK. He is also involved with many charities.

During his career, John and the programmes he has been involved with have won numerous awards, including two prestigious Baftas. In 1996, the Royal Television Society made him a member of its exclusive Hall of Fame, "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to British television". In 2004, the Royal Television Society Midlands presented him with their major award, the Baird Medal.

In the Millennium New Year's Honours John was awarded an OBE for services to Broadcasting.

## COMPERE: FIONA ARMSTRONG



Our comperes for the evening is Fiona Armstrong of ITV Border

Fiona Armstrong is a broadcaster and writer. She presents ITV Border's nightly news programme, Lookaround - and other shows, including politics, gardening, cooking and fishing programmes.

A former ITN newscaster and reporter, Fiona's work took her to places like Africa, where she made a programme on Aids orphans. She covered the Lockerbie air disaster and other major news stories. She has fronted antiques and lifestyle programmes and a series

on international businessmen for an American network. She has presented a cooking series and has produced several series of 'Clans' programmes on Scottish families.

Fiona has written two fishing books and two cookbooks and is currently working on a book on class. She writes for newspapers and magazines and does corporate work.

Fiona's hobbies include cooking, fishing, swimming and clan research.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AWARD (Vocational)

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The Further Education Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievements and contributions through the learner's educational or vocational experience, whether this is in terms of increased opportunity for themselves or for others.



**Dan Pepper**  
CHEADLE & MARPLE  
SIXTH FORM  
COLLEGE

Dan studied for the  
BTEC National  
Certificate for Sport

which matched his career aspirations and his elite swimming programme. Despite his severe dyslexic learning disability, his attitude to his studies was second to none and always well disciplined.

Dan trained seven days a week: he would be in the pool at 5.00am and then come to college. At the World Championships in Belgium 2007, despite his final demands for coursework, Dan won seven gold medals, three silver medals and one bronze medal; including four World record times and three British record times! Dan left the course not with his predicted pass but with a merit and was awarded the Governor's Award in 2007.



**Holly Lorne**  
LORETO SIXTH  
FORM COLLEGE

Holly completed a  
BTEC National  
Diploma course in  
Care with distinction

grades in July 2007 at Loreto Sixth Form College. She has an excellent and empathetic understanding of many of the aspects of Care, able to identify the needs of others and the importance of treating people as individuals. She was also very aware of anti-discriminatory practices in the care sector and showed great sensitivity in applying these.

Holly attended a number of work placements including a day nursery and a school. She has a genuine rapport with the children in her care and has now progressed onto a Midwifery Degree course at Salford University.



**Cavan Harrington**  
XAVERIAN COLLEGE

Cavan studied level 2  
BTEC First course in  
Sport, gaining a  
Distinction, and then  
level 3 courses

notably the BTEC National Certificate in Sport, in which he has excelled. He has also taken the Community Sports Leaders Award (CSLA) and the Basic Expedition Leaders Award (BELA), navigating himself and others safely in a mountain environment, and he coaches primary school children.

Cavan is captain of the first XI football team and club captain of all the sports teams, acting as a student representative for other team members. He organized a 5-a-side football tournament to raise funds for charity and fund-raising events for an educational residential to a Rumanian orphanage with sports equipment to donate to the orphanage.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AWARD (Academic)

The Further Education Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievements and contributions through the learner's educational or vocational experience, whether this is in terms of increased opportunity for themselves or for others.



**Paul Lee**  
HOPWOOD HALL  
COLLEGE

Paul left school in  
1988 with one  
qualification - a GCSE  
grade B in Art and

Design. He worked in the building trade until 2001 when he had to cease work due to a chronic back ailment and subsequent depression. It was the death of his father in February 2006 that prompted Paul to return to education. He enrolled on an Access Level 2 course - a one-year programme of GCSEs for mature students.

Paul is an articulate and intelligent student with a genuine thirst for knowledge. His written work is outstanding and he achieved A\* grades in all his 5 GCSEs - a unique feat in the history of the College. He is now on the Access to HE Course and is studying History, English and Geography. He has been offered a place to read History at Cambridge.



**William Downes**  
BURY COLLEGE

William Downes was a  
member of the college  
Mentoring for  
Excellence programme  
having achieved 5 A\*,

2A and 5B grades at GCSE. William's passion is aeronautics and he was determined to pursue a place at university to study engineering with a view to becoming an aeronautical engineer. His involvement outside college in the Air Cadets, Duke of Edinburgh scheme and an interest in scuba diving were an indication of his wide interests.

William achieved A Levels in Mathematics (grade A), Further Mathematics (grade A), Physics (grade A), Computing (grade A) and AS General Studies and Critical Thinking (grade A). William is a highly motivated and mature student who worked exceptionally hard. William is currently reading Engineering at King's College Cambridge.



**Amar Butt**  
MANCAT

Before starting his Access  
to Law course, Amar had  
just been released from  
prison and was on  
probation wearing an

electronic tagging device.

He now shows consistently high levels of attendance and punctuality and real commitment to his studies. He is a pleasant and reliable student who works to a high standard and has passed all of his assignments to date. He applied to be a student council member so that he could contribute to the college.

Finances are a problem, but instead of dropping out, he has applied for funding through the Adult Learning Grant (ALG) and is currently looking for part-time work.

Amar has applied to five universities and he hopes to use the skills developed through his course, and his own past experience, to help young offenders.

## APPRENTICE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Apprentice Employer of the Year Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate employers' commitment to developing their workforce through Apprenticeships.



Delta International  
Oldham  
CITB

Investment into Apprenticeships has allowed Delta International to experience continual growth as a company. Increasing skills and loyalty within the organisation has given Delta the confidence to take on new contracts, with the knowledge that they have operatives and teams equipped with the skills necessary to carry out work safely and professionally.

Because Delta works in a highly specialised industry - providing high rise access solutions in the power and petrochemical industry - their strategy has been to continually train new generations of highly skilled workers.

Delta Apprenticeships last for three years, with a 30 week programme at Bircham Newton College and the remainder being on-site experience. Each apprentice has a mentor who fully supervises and coaches them in the practicalities of working life, and allows them to develop and practice the skills they have gained at college.

As a multi-disciplined employer, Delta doesn't limit Apprenticeships to the specialist access and safety positions required by the company. It encourages Apprenticeships in a variety of areas, including office positions, welding, electrical, scaffolding and concrete repair.

Delta sees Apprenticeships as an excellent way of promoting responsibility, and they believe that their investment in health, safety and skills training has contributed to their very low accident statistics.

Six former apprentices have progressed within the company to director, management, supervision and foreman roles, providing positive role models for other apprentices within the company.

Delta's commitment to Apprenticeships has had a positive effect on business growth, citing their clients' knowledge that their workmanship and knowledge is among the best available as being the reason for repeat business. In 2006, 82% of Delta's business was from repeat clients, growing to 92% in 2007.

CITB deliver the Apprenticeship programme for Delta, and have praised their pro-active support and commitment to training.

## PERSONAL ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Personal Achiever of the Year Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate apprentices who have successfully overcome barriers or obstacles, personally or in the workplace, to achieve their goals and exceed all expectations.



James Brock  
17, Stockport

**CHILDCARE, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Overdale Pre-School.

Cheadle and Marple Sixth Form College

James found school extremely difficult, as he suffered from severe anxiety which caused panic attacks and other physical symptoms. He found it very hard to be in a group of people, so his attendance at school was very limited.

On leaving school, James decided to embark on an Apprenticeship in Childcare. He started working with small groups of children at the Overdale Pre-School and progressed to working with the whole nursery. James hasn't suffered a single panic attack since he started work at the nursery, and he feels more confident all round.

James's manager says he has developed excellent personal relationships, and shows a natural caring personality and enthusiasm.



Craig Fletcher  
18, Little Hulton

**AMENITY HORTICULTURE**

Pacific Landscapes Ltd.

YMCA Training

When Craig became a father, he was determined to lift himself out of the unemployed lifestyle he and his friends had become used to.

When he was offered a short training course in horticulture he jumped at the chance. He enjoyed it so much, he was determined to progress to an Apprenticeship course, taking adult literacy and numeracy certificates in order to qualify. He has embraced his role at Pacific Landscapes and has 100% attendance. He is thrilled to be able to support his family.

Craig's training advisor has praised his commitment to his work and family, and says he is a valuable team player.

# APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

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The Apprentice of the Year Award 2008 acknowledges and celebrates exceptional contributions made by apprentices in their workplace. Judges look for apprentices who have made a real difference to the organisation they work for by exceeding expectations and delivering measurable benefits.



**Collette Paul**  
18, Radcliffe  
**CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
L'Oreal Golden Ltd.  
Bury College

Collette works with a team of 18 customer service advisors at L'Oreal's Professional Products Division. Joining the company as an assistant, Collette was quickly promoted to the call team, and completed the complicated training in less than half the time usually taken. In December, Collette was rewarded for taking the most calls and recording the least number of errors across the whole customer services team. Collette is dedicated to her role, and strives to gain as much knowledge and experience as possible.

Collette's employers say she is 'fantastic', and a great example of the sort of person they want as an employee.



**Stephanie Lloyd**  
17, Urmston  
**RETAIL**  
Stylo Barratts.  
Blue Training

Stephanie's commitment to her position at Barratt's Shoes impressed her managers so much, they made her head of the ladies' department.

Stephanie takes pride in always going the extra mile for her customers, and this has been reflected in sales. Under her leadership, profits in the department increased by £20,000 in just ten weeks. The team of 15 staff Stephanie is responsible for hold a great respect for Stephanie, and the level of customer service provision has increased throughout the store.

Her manager says he has been incredibly impressed by Stephanie, and her commitment has made an overall improvement to the store.



**Michelle Officer**  
19, Gorton  
**IT PRACTITIONERS**  
ANS Group plc.  
Skills Solution

Michelle's role with IT Consultancy ANS is primarily as a system care engineer, web developer and account manager.

Since she has been with ANS, she has implemented a number of systems and strategies that have increased efficiency and cut costs for the company. She has also been instrumental in the branding and marketing of the company, and despite her technical position she is seen as a key part of the marketing team.

Michelle's employer says that the difference she has made to the company is immeasurable, and that she is an outstanding member of staff who is refreshing to work with.

# ADVANCED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award 2008 acknowledges and celebrates exceptional contributions made by apprentices in their workplace. Judges look for apprentices who have made a real difference to the organisation they work for by exceeding expectations and delivering measurable benefits.



**Danielle Gowrie**  
23, Woodford  
**HORSE CARE**  
Dean Valley Equestrian Centre.  
Total People Ltd

Danielle's employer at Dean Valley Equestrian Centre is so confident in her abilities, she has handed over complete responsibility for the running of the centre.

With full bookings every week, Danielle has proved to be an extremely popular teacher, as well as a very conscientious horse carer. In addition to carrying out her Apprenticeship, Danielle has completed a teaching qualification and takes great pleasure in mentoring new members of staff. She says the practical skills she has learned during her Apprenticeship have been invaluable, and her confidence and competence have greatly increased.

Danielle's employer says she is an inspirational teacher with exceptional communication skills and excellent work ethics.



**Matthew Smith**  
19, Audenshaw  
**SITE JOINERY**  
Connaught Property Services.  
Skills@Oldham

When Matthew began his Apprenticeship, he couldn't hammer a nail in. Now, he's fitting kitchens single-handedly.

Matthew's main role is refurbishing domestic properties with his employer, Connaught Property Services. He has received excellent feedback from residents, who say that as well as his work being of a consistently high standard, he also treats them and their properties with utmost respect. Matthew takes a great pride in his work, gaining satisfaction and increased confidence from the work he completes. He is on target to complete his Advanced Apprenticeship six months ahead of schedule.

Connaught's are extremely proud of Matthew's achievements, and awarded him their own Apprentice of the Year award.



**Michelle Kane**  
23, Droylsden  
**HAIRDRESSING**  
Razor's Edge.  
Skills Solution

Before Michelle had completed the final stages of her Apprenticeship, she had already opened her own salon. She has now taken on her own apprentice, and is planning on taking an assessor's course so she can provide training.

While she was carrying out her Apprenticeship with Razor's Edge, Michelle was keen to expand her skills and knowledge and helped to plan and implement many hair shows in the city centre. She also mentored a younger apprentice within the salon.

Michelle says that her success was only made possible by the help and guidance of her former employers, and the support and encouragement of her assessors at Skills Solutions.



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