

CESHIRE COLLEGES ARE 'BEACONS' OF SUCCESS

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It's official! Cheshire and Warrington colleges have one of the best records of achievement anywhere in the country.

The news comes as a further three Cheshire and Warrington colleges have been awarded 'Learning and Skills Beacon Status' by the Quality Improvement Agency (QIA) at a prestigious ceremony on Wednesday 9 May in London.

Macclesfield College, Reaseheath College and Priestley College have all delivered outstanding teaching and learning, meeting the stringent standards of excellence required for Beacon Status.

They join Sir John Deane's College and South Cheshire College, which have already achieved this impressive accolade.

In addition all five 'Beacon' colleges have also achieved 'outstanding' inspections by Ofsted – a record which outshines every other area in England.

Welcoming the news Liz Davis, Director of Area for the Learning and Skills Council in Cheshire and Warrington said,

"I'm delighted that Cheshire and Warrington's colleges are leading the way. To have five out of our eight colleges held up as examples of excellence illustrates

that local learners have unprecedented access to some of the best teaching and learning resources in the country. These colleges have made a significant commitment to delivering high quality provision and Beacon Status recognises that they are driving up standards in a fresh and innovative way.”

The eight further education colleges in Cheshire and Warrington have been working together to share good practice and develop strategies to move from good to outstanding performance. This, and the efforts of the staff of the individual colleges, is clearly reaping rewards for learners across the Cheshire and Warrington area.

Launched by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in 2002, Beacon Status is awarded to providers funded by the Learning and Skills Council and inspected by the Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) or the Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI).

Beacon Status has been awarded to a wide range of colleges and other training providers, representative of the real breath and diversity of the further education system in England.

Liz Davis continued, “Beacon colleges are at the forefront of the Learning and Skills Council’s vision to create a better skilled and more competitive workforce, ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training. These latest achievements by Cheshire and Warrington colleges highlight that locally we are well on the way to fulfilling this vision and I’d like to offer my congratulations on an outstanding performance.”

ENDS

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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