

Help us put Lancashire's learners and apprentices on the map

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As the closing date for entries to the North West Learner Awards 2009 draws near, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is urging learners, apprentices, employers and colleges across Lancashire to enter the awards.

The North West Learner Awards recognise and celebrate achievement in further education learners, apprentices and apprentice employers, and will culminate in a glittering awards ceremony and dinner for finalists from Lancashire. Winners from Lancashire will go on to the North West finals, while entries in the Apprenticeship categories are also entered into the National Apprenticeship Awards.

LSC Regional Director John Korzeniewski said: "These awards celebrate the immense talent we have here in the North West, as well as the real contribution that apprentices make to the region. Last year's awards were a huge success and I believe this year's will be even better, but with the deadline for entries on 27 February you need to get your entry in as soon as you can."

This year, there are three categories for apprentices, five for employers and two further education awards. The individual apprentice award categories acknowledge and celebrate apprentices' exceptional contributions to their workplaces and comprise Young Apprentice of the Year, Apprentice of the Year and Advanced Apprentice of the Year.

Employers of all sizes are eligible for the employer awards, which 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.

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.

This year, for the first time, apprentices and learners can also join groups on Facebook, MySpace and Bebo to keep up to date with the awards, send details to friends and see photographs of last year's events. These can be found at:  
<http://www.bebo.com/LearnerA>, [http://www.myspace.com/lsc\\_nw\\_learner\\_awards](http://www.myspace.com/lsc_nw_learner_awards), or if you're on Facebook search for the North West Learner Awards 2009 group.

Entry forms for the Apprentice and Employer categories can be found online at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk/awards](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/awards). The LSC has contacted all further education colleges directly with information about how they can nominate students.

The deadline for completed applications in all Apprentice and Further Education categories is 27 February 2009.

**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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