

## **Emmerdale's Jasmine Thomas (Jenna Coleman) Launches 2006 Learning and Skills Council Awards for Cumbria**

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**The 2006 Excellence in Cumbria Awards for learning, skills and achievement will be launched at Rheged on Monday 20 November 2006 at 5.30pm by Emmerdale actor Jenna Coleman who plays troubled teenager Jasmine Thomas.**

As well as "Jasmine", two of last year's finalists, Michael Fulton who won the Skills for Life Award and Sarah Louise Thomas, Youth Achievement Award finalist, together with Learning and Skills Council North West Regional Director, John Korzeniewski, will be the guest speakers at the event.

The Awards, run by Learning and Skills Council Cumbria in association with ITV Border, have six individual categories, each aimed at recognising and rewarding people who have excelled at learning and improved their own lives, or the lives of those around them :

- Youth Progress Award (in memory of Doreen Clark and sponsored by Connexions Cumbria)
- Youth Achievement Award
- Skills For Life Award
- Adult Learners Award (sponsored by the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education – NIACE)
- Breakthrough Award
- TUC Lifelong Learning Award

There are also three Awards for Apprenticeships that recognise achievement by individuals and organisations :

- Apprentice of the Year Award
- Apprentice Employer of the Year
- Young Apprentice of the Year

Ruth Bullen, Area Director, Learning and Skills Council Cumbria says: "The Excellence in Cumbria Awards are recognised as the most prestigious awards programme of their type in the County. We are confident that, once again, we will see an abundance of talented individuals who have excelled in learning and improved their lives, and employers who have used learning to develop their workforce and improve their business."

You can nominate yourself, someone you know or a business by telephoning Janis Wilkinson on FREEPHONE 0808 1455778 or by applying online at: [www.excellenceawards.org.uk](http://www.excellenceawards.org.uk). Nominations and applications for the Awards must be received by 22 December 2006.

Individual award area winners will be announced in February 2007 and automatically entered into the County finals which is an 'Oscars' style ceremony taking place at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal on Thursday 29 March 2007.

**-ENDS-**

#### **PRESS FACILITY**

**You are invited to send a photographer/ reporter/ film crew to Rheged on Monday 20 November 2006 at 4.45 pm where all guest speakers and representatives from LSC: John Korzeniewski, Regional Director, Ruth Bullen, Area Director and Mike Thorpe, Deputy Chair, will be available for interview.**

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Partners in this year's Awards include ITV Border, Connexions Cumbria, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

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