

Apprentices lead the way in 2006 Excellence in Cumbria Awards

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WINNERS OF EXCELLENCE IN CUMBRIA AWARDS ANNOUNCED LIVE ON THE NIGHT – Thursday 29 March 2007

Who better to present the Learning and Skills Council's Awards to Cumbria's finest achievers in the field of learning than Michelle Dewberry, winner of last year's television series "The Apprentice". And this year it is Cumbria's teenage apprentices that are leading the way.

Steven Norman, 15, from Whitehaven won the Young Apprentice Award. He attends St Benedict's Catholic High School and is undertaking a Young Apprenticeship in Engineering through Lakes College West Cumbria, with a placement at GEN II Training. Philippa Hutt, 19, from Levens, won the Apprentice of The Year Award studying for a Foundation Apprenticeship in Business Administration with JHP in Barrow in Furness.

Ruth Bullen, LSC Area Director for Cumbria said "Like Michelle Dewberry, both these young people have shown the commitment and determination they need to be winners. They exemplify why the Learning and Skills Council runs these Awards - to highlight the importance of learning. And once again the Awards have discovered an abundance of talented individuals who have excelled in learning and improved their lives. My congratulations go to all the learners - there was an extremely high standard of entries this year and the all finalists did really well to win through to the County Final."

Age proved no barrier to success for the adult learners. Andrew Harrison, winner of the Skills for Life Award, is 38 and, because of personal problems, did not receive any education from the age of 12. But he returned to education after 25 years and impressed his tutor at Carlisle College with his commitment to learning and the quality of his coursework in Motor Vehicle Studies.

Full list of winners:

[Connexions Cumbria Youth Progress Award](#)

Ryan Marvin, aged 19 (Barrow-in-Furness)

Youth Achievement Award

Rebecca Murray, aged 19 (Brampton)

Skills for Life Award

Andrew Harrison, aged 38 (Penrith)

Adult Learners Award sponsored by NIACE

Jackie Harding, aged 41 (Barrow-in-Furness)

Breakthrough Award

Gerry Garvey, aged 40 (Penrith)

TUC Lifelong Learning Award

David Beattie, aged 48 (Carlisle)

Apprentice Employer of the Year

James Walker & Co Ltd (Cockermouth)

Apprentice of the Year

Philippa Hutt, aged 19 (Levens)

Young Apprentice of the Year

Steven Norman, aged 15 (Whitehaven)

-ENDS-

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:

1The 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.

2The Excellence in Cumbria Awards for Learning Skills and Achievement has eight individual categories, each aimed at rewarding people who have used self development to improve their own lives, or those within their communities. There is also one business category.

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