

AWARD SUCCESS AT GREATER MANCHESTER LEARNER AWARDS

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Greater Manchester learners are celebrating their success following the announcement of the winners of the 2007 Greater Manchester Learner Awards. The winners were presented with their prizes, an exclusively designed trophy and a cheque for £500, by Michelle Dewberry, last year's winner of the television series 'The Apprentice'.

The Greater Manchester Learner Awards, which took place at Manchester Town Hall, were organised by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in Greater Manchester to recognise exceptional learners and employers that have shown commitment and enthusiasm to training and development.

The winners, that were revealed on the night, are;

Further Education Award (Academic)

Soraya Mafi, Bury

Soraya is no stranger to award success having scooped the prestigious National Junior English Song Prize (2004) at the Royal Academy of Music, whilst studying music at Holy Cross College. This accolade directed her decision to study singing at A Level and now at degree level at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

Soraya has continued to excel on a national platform and was given the unique accolade of being the first female to sing at the new Wembley stadium on 1 June 2007.

Further Education Award (Vocational)

Maxine Perritt, Oldham

Maxine enrolled at Hopwood Hall College in 2002, she passed her Health Studies course with flying colours and is now continuing her education as she takes her place at Sheffield University to fulfil her ambition of being a nurse.

Personal Achiever of the Year Award

Katy Wilson, Stockport

Katy, from Offerton has overcome numerous obstacles throughout her academic career, including coping with a nervous condition. She persevered with learning and returned to college to sit exams that would enable her to realise her career plans on the Cadet Care Course. Katy has since completed numerous qualifications including an NVQ Level 2 in Health and Social Care, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Technical Certificates. Receiving support from her employer and training provider has spurred her on as she now continues on her career path with a positive attitude and increased confidence.

Apprentice of the Year Award

Christopher Taylor, Rochdale

Christopher successfully completed his Painting and Decorating Apprenticeship last year. With plans to go on to complete an Advanced Apprenticeship, Christopher is currently working in the field gaining valuable work experience having recently been promoted to site foreman where he now has the responsibility of supervising and instructing other apprentices.

Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award

Angela Rose, Oldham

After leaving school at 16, Angela commenced work and within six months recognised that she could benefit from vocational qualifications and enrolled on a Business Administration course. She has since gained additional qualifications in the business field, successfully completing a number of NVQs and other qualifications in Team Leading and IT. Going on to successfully start and develop a department in her workplace, Angela's growing ambition to continue learning and advance her skills has shown a great determination and maturity.

Jane Bracewell, LSC Director of Area, Greater Manchester South commented, "The calibre of entries has been outstanding. We celebrate the commitment and success of all our winners and nominees and I congratulate each and every one on their achievements."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

MBDA Systems of Bolton was awarded with the Employer of the Year Award.

MBDA Systems scooped the award in acknowledgement of the commitment it has shown to developing its workforce through Apprenticeships. The defence engineering company has Apprenticeship programmes that form part of its wider strategy geared to develop its next generation of employees.

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.

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