

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SKILLS STARS SHINE AT 'LEARNING OSCARS'

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Gloucestershire skills stars lit up the South West Skills Awards with two winners and one highly commended finalist who received their awards from TV's Ben Fogle.

Described as the 'Learning Oscars', the prestigious ceremony, which was held on April 24, was organised and funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) South West to celebrate the exceptional achievements of individuals and organisations throughout the region.

Ceila Smart from Gloucester won the 'Achieving Skills for Life' category for her outstanding commitment to gaining new literacy skills after she returned to learning to aid her children's reading.

Berkeley based Cattle Country Adventure Park won the 'Success in Leadership and Management' category after introducing an integrated programme to develop the skills of their managers.

Electrical Installation Company Clarkson Evans based in Gloucester were highly commended in the 'Large Employer of the Year' category for the development of their apprentices.

Malcolm Gillespie, Regional Director, LSC South West said: "Last night's ceremony was a fantastic celebration of learning and development across the South West. We received a record number of entries, so our Gloucestershire winners can be very proud of their achievements."

“The awards enabled the LSC to showcase the outstanding contribution that individuals and businesses are making to raise skill levels and improve productivity and competitiveness throughout the region.”

Intrepid explorer and TV presenter Ben Fogle presented the Gloucestershire winners and finalists with their awards following his motivational speech to 170 south west apprentices, adult learners and employers at Sandy Park Stadium in Exeter.

Ends

Note to Editors:

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 more information visit: www.lsc.gov.uk/southwest

For more information, photos or to arrange an interview with a winner or finalist please contact Lindsay, Rebecca or Jenny on 0117 907 3400.

Awards categories, winners and highly commended finalists

- **Employer of the Year (Large):**

Winner – Pendennis Shipyard (Falmouth)

Highly Commended – Clarkson Evans Ltd (Gloucester) and Kawasaki Precision Machinery UK

- **Achieving Skills for Life:**

Winner - Ceila Smart (Gloucester)

Highly Commended – Charlotte Barber (Barnstaple) and Simon Sibley (Weymouth)

- **Success in Leadership and Management:**

Winner- Cattle Country Adventure Park (Berkeley, Gloucestershire)