

SKILLS STARS RECOGNISED AT SOUTH WEST AWARDS

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Twenty learners and nineteen companies from across the region were recognised at last night's South West Skills Awards, winning or receiving commendations for their skills achievements.

The prestigious awards ceremony, organised by the Learning Skills Council (LSC) was held at Sandy Park Stadium in Exeter.

The winners and finalists were presented with their awards by Scottish rugby and Strictly Come Dancing star Kenny Logan.

The winners were:

Bristol

- Chandler Tyrell – Young Apprentice of the Year
- Wayne Manton - Advanced Apprentice of the Year
- Pultec Ltd - Train to Gain Small Employer of the Year

Cornwall

- Cornwall Partnership Trust - Skills Pledge Category

Devon

- M.D. Tapp Builders (Paignton) - Micro Employer of the Year
- Bonnet Electrical (Ivybridge) - Small Employer of the Year -
- Housing Repairs department at Plymouth City Council - Medium Employer of the Year
- Princess Yachts International plc (Plymouth) - Large Employer of the Year
- Arkadiusz Czapiewski (Exeter)- Achieving Skills for Life

- Deborah Hungerford (Exeter) -Learner of the Year

Dorset

- Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust - Train to Gain Large Employer of the Year.
- Dorset County Council -Macro Employer of the Year

Gloucestershire

- Sinead Smith (Gloucester)- Apprentice of the Year

Somerset

- Jason Thorne (Taunton) - Learning Against the Odds
- Andrew Wall (Highbridge)- Inspiring Others to Learn
- St Margaret's Somerset Hospice (Taunton)- Third Sector Employer of the Year
- Unwin Safety Systems (Martock) -Train to Gain Medium Employer of the Year

Wiltshire

- Yapp Brothers (Mere)

The awards were sponsored by the European Social Fund, Flybe, Rolls-Royce and Train to Gain.

Kenny Logan, said: "I am extremely proud to be part of these awards as I know how difficult it is to learn new skills. I have been through many of the same situations as many of these award winners and they have achieved a great deal: I would like to congratulate them."

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Malcolm Gillespie, Regional Director of the LSC said: “The Awards are a fantastic celebration of the achievements of all our finalists, individuals and companies alike. From overcoming great odds to excelling in their Apprenticeships – our individual learners should be extremely proud. Employers have also demonstrated the fantastic contribution they have made to skills development across the region and it was wonderful to see them receive the recognition they deserve.”

Ends

Note to Editors:

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.

Quotes from sponsors:

Train to Gain Director, Chris Minett, who sponsored this award, said: “ This is a fantastic example of how businesses can benefit from the advice and help offered by the Train to Gain service, improving skills and motivate and inspire employees. We are delighted that all these businesses have been recognised for their outstanding efforts to boost the skills of their staff.”

Mark Williams – LSC Skills Director of ESF said: “Training within Third Sector organisations such as St Margaret’s is vital to maintaining the competitiveness of their services, as well as high standard of care. We were extremely impressed that the team embraced the opportunity for training so wholeheartedly and congratulate them on their outstanding achievement – they have clearly made a tangible difference to the organisation.”

Ian Featherstone, Apprentice Development Leader, Rolls-Royce, sponsors of the category said: "Rolls-Royce has a long history of supporting learning and development including Apprenticeship programmes, which began over 100 years ago. The achievement

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of apprentices is very important and we are delighted their accomplishments are being recognised through this award."

Flybe sponsored the Learner of the Year category; Simon Witts, Director of Safety, Quality and Training at Flybe, said: "As Europe's largest regional airline, we are pleased to pledge our support to the South West Skills Awards and extend our congratulations to all winners of this year's competition. Flybe is committed to playing a key role in the ongoing creation and up-skilling of a quality workforce. Awards such as this are crucial and play an important part encouraging more people and employers to engage in learning and development on a regional level."

About European Social Fund

- The England and Gibraltar European Social Fund (ESF) programme has £2 billion that will be invested in jobs and skills – especially for those who are at a disadvantage in the labour market.
- The South West has £83.7 million which will be invested in projects that will benefit employers and help transform the lives of people across the region.
- For further information on European Social Fund, visit www.esf.gov.uk

About Train to Gain

- Train to Gain helps businesses easily access information, advice and support on training, through experienced and independent brokers. More information on Train to Gain can be found via - www.traintogain.gov.uk or by calling 08456 047 047.
- Train to Gain began in April 2006 in Devon and Cornwall and Wiltshire and was rolled out across England from August 1st 2006.

About Rolls-Royce plc

- Rolls-Royce, a world-leading provider of power systems and services for use on land, at sea and in the air, operates in four global markets - civil aerospace, defence aerospace, marine and energy. Rolls-Royce has a broad customer base comprising 600 airlines, 4,000 corporate and utility aircraft and helicopter operators, 160 armed forces, more than 2,000 marine customers including 70 navies, and energy customers in 120 countries.
- Rolls-Royce currently employs approximately 575 Advanced Apprentices and is training 40 Young Apprentices. For more information visit our website: <http://www.rolls-royce.com/careers>

About Flybe

- Flybe is Europe's largest and most successful regional airline with over 190 routes serving 13 countries, operating from a total of 66 departure points, 36 UK and 30 European airports
- Flybe is the number one UK domestic regional point to point airline serving five times more domestic routes than any other airline
- Flybe is Air Transport World's 2009 Regional Airline of the Year ; ranked number 1 in the Sunday Times 2008 Top Track 250; won the 2008 Regional Leadership Award at

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the Global Airline Strategy Awards; the 'Special Merit for Commitment to the Environment' award at the 2008 Budgie Awards and Flight International's 'Best Management Team 2007' award

- Flybe is the largest scheduled airline at Birmingham, Exeter, Manchester, Southampton, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and Belfast City
- Flybe launched the aviation industry's first ever eco labelling scheme in June 07
- Flybe offers the UK's first low cost customer loyalty scheme open to all passengers *Rewards4all*

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Full List of Award Winners

South West Apprentice of the Year:

Young Apprentice of the Year – sponsored by Rolls-Royce

Chandler Tyrrell

- Apprentice of the Year
Sinead Smith
- Advanced Apprentice of the Year
Wayne Manton

South West Employer of the Year:

- Micro Employer of the Year (1 to 9 employees)
M.D. Tapp Builders Limited
- Small Employer of the Year (10 to 49 employees)
Bonnet Electrical
- Medium Employer of the Year (50 to 249 employees)
Housing Repairs, Plymouth City Council
- Large Employer of the Year (250 to 4,999 employees)
Princess Yachts International plc
- Macro Employer of the Year (5,000+ employees)
Dorset County Council

Achieving Skills for Life in the South West

Arkadiusz Czapiewski

Inspiring Others to Learn in the South West

Andrew Wall

Learning Against the Odds

Jason Thorne

South West Learner of the Year – sponsored by Flybe

Deborah Hungerford

Train to Gain Employer of the Year: – sponsored by Train to Gain

- Small Business
Pultec Ltd
- Medium Business
Unwin Safety Systems
- Large Business
Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch NHS Foundation Trust

Skills Pledge Employer of the Year

Cornwall Partnership Trust

Success in Leadership and Management

Yapp Brothers Ltd

Third Sector Employer of the Year – sponsored by European Social Fund

Domestic Team at St Margaret's Somerset Hospice