

## Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related Industrial Chemistry



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Engineers and Manufacturers

9<sup>th</sup> October 2008

**The AEMFC Sector** (Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, including Food Manufacturing and related Industrial Chemistry) of WYLLN (West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network) recently attended Yorkshire's biggest skills and careers event – Skills Yorkshire and the Humber.

Held at the Sheffield Arena on 8 and 9 October 2008, the event was designed to be an interactive skills festival, showcasing and demonstrating career opportunities open to young people. It was the perfect platform for AEMFC, the organisation which aims to provide an easier and more flexible transition from education to workplace and vice versa.

“Engineering and manufacturing play a vital role in our region's economy. Yet, with fewer young people entering such professions, these traditional industries are facing a potential skills shortage,” said Dr Paul Denton, AEMFC Sector Officer. “Events like the Skills Yorkshire and the Humber are an excellent vehicle for us to promote the benefits and career opportunities within engineering and manufacturing. The interactive nature of this event allowed students to see and experience for themselves the opportunities of a career within engineering and manufacturing,” Paul added.

Over 7,500 students between 14 and 19 years of age, from local schools and colleges attended the event with either parents or teachers. In addition to interactive demonstrations, the AEMFC stand offered a wealth of information. Students were provided with details of the full range of college and university provision for engineering and manufacturing, available within West Yorkshire. The information also highlighted the different job and entrepreneurial opportunities available within this specialised sector.

Feedback from young people who attended the stand was extremely positive with many expressing a real interest in a career in engineering and manufacturing.

“We were extremely pleased with the response we received. From the comments made, it would appear that engineering and manufacturing is now a genuine consideration for many of the young people we saw at the event. We intend to continue attending such events to take our message to as wide an audience as possible, with the intention of inspiring a new generation, skilled in engineering and manufacturing,” said Paul.

