

Learner Case Study

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

Nicola's Story

Nicola has had to overcome many challenges during her apprentice training and her higher education courses. She works in a predominantly male environment and has excelled in everything that she has done, gaining the respect of her colleagues.

Nicola has won several awards, including the Tony Byford Award, presented by Keighley College for the most improved student, and the Kadtal Woman Engineer of the Year Award on two occasions. Having completed her Advanced Apprenticeship, she wanted to continue to learn and gained a BTEC HNC at Bradford College, which enabled her to enter the second year of the part-time BEng Degree course in manufacturing Engineering at Leeds Metropolitan University. She graduated in 2006 with a II(I). But still she wanted to go further and wanted to gain Chartered Engineer Status.

Nicola is currently completing an MSc in Engineering at Leeds Metropolitan University, which she expects to finish in February. She attends the University on two Saturdays in five, working from 9 am to 5 pm so that it does not affect her work. Nicola is a good role model to other learners and has achieved all of this while having to contend with dyslexia.

In June 2008 Nicola received a Highly Commended status in the West Yorkshire Adult Work-Based Learner Awards.