



PRESS RELEASE

“West Yorkshire Work-Based Learning Awards” – Winners Announced

Learners, employers and tutors across West Yorkshire have been recognised for their commitment to higher level skills. The judging panel for the 4th annual West Yorkshire Work-Based Learning Awards has chosen the well-deserved winners and highly commended candidates who will be presented with their awards at a prestigious celebration event next month.

The Awards recognise inspirational learners who have gained a positive or life changing experience from progressing onto higher education or have gained new skills which will improve their career prospects and the performance of the company they work for. There are also awards for tutors and employers who deserve special recognition for offering encouragement, support or inspiration to work-based learners.

Steve Challenger, Executive Director of the West Yorkshire Lifelong Learning Network which runs the awards said, “every year I am surprised by the calibre of the nominations we receive and this year is no exception, some of the stories are truly inspirational and it is humbling to realise the effort and commitment shown to gain higher level skills”

Shabana Kauser is the winner in the Health, Social Care and Early Years category. She is working towards an NVQ Level 3 in Health and Social Care at Bradford College while working at Sharing Voices. Shabana is the main carer for both her mother and husband who suffer from mental health problems, she is also a mother of four young children. Shabana has shown great commitment to her course, often completing coursework in the early hours of the morning which is the only time she has time for herself. She hopes to go on to university to study psychological therapies or psychiatric nursing to further her career.

The winner of the Leadership, Management, Innovation and Enterprise category is Rebecca Mallinder. Rebecca is undertaking a HNC in Business at Wakefield College which has opened up opportunities for her which would not otherwise have been possible. Rebecca has used the knowledge she has gained on the course to help her to secure two promotions at work, she currently works in risk assurance with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. Her confidence has soared since starting the course which in turn has improved her presentation skills. Rebecca hopes to progress onto a degree in Business and Management.

Kim Popplewell is a tutor at Leeds City College and has won the tutor award for transforming the staff work-based team by introducing and supporting the use of e-learning and assessment. She has pioneered the use of mobile technologies within the college, including the use of MP3 players and video flip cameras for assessment and providing an alternative to the written form for learners.

Other winners include Bethany Bolton, Senior Marketing Executive at Provident Financial and studying the CIM Professional Diploma; Chris Berrie of NG Bailey studying a HND in Building Services

Engineering at Leeds College of Building; John Heaton, a Personal Trainer studying a Sports Performance and Coaching Foundation Degree at Wakefield College; Nichole Tinnion, IT Service Analyst for International Personal Finance who completed the IT Practitioners and Professionals BTEC and NVQ Award at Shipley College in October. The 'Employer of the Year' title is this year awarded to Lilycroft Primary School in Bradford. There are also a number of highly commended candidates. The full list can be found at www.wylln.ac.uk and the stories of all of the award winners will be available on the website by the end of June.