

NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS

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Local businesses mark training success

The National Training Awards were introduced in 1986 to celebrate individuals, businesses and organisations that have achieved outstanding success through training and development, and in the past two decades many thousands of companies have been honoured.

The awards are run on behalf of the Department for Education and Skills by UK Skills on a number of levels. Regional events take place across the UK to celebrate the achievements of local companies, with the Yorkshire and Humber ceremony being held recently at Leeds Town Hall.

John Robertshaw, the chair of the Yorkshire and Humber judging panel, said, "These awards show the breadth, depth and real benefits of the very high quality training taking place in our region. I hope the examples of the winners demonstrate the true benefits of training and development and will encourage others to invest in training and consider entering their success stories in next year's awards."

The ceremony was presented by tennis star turned TV presenter Andrew Castle, who said, "Training is essential to any success whether it's on the tennis court, in life or in business. Training for a major tennis tournament has similarities with the training many of the Yorkshire and Humber winners have undertaken. The winners know their goal, they planned what they needed to do to reach it and they've not only achieved it, but often

exceeded their expectations."

Two Leeds companies won the National Training Award on the night. Morrison Utility Services were honoured for their extensive training service for electricity meter fittings. They also won the City & Guilds' sponsored Collaboration award which recognises training that demonstrates effective collaboration.

Luminary Solutions, meanwhile, won the

award thanks to their training culture approach which, in the three years since the company began, has seen it enjoy an annual turnover of £2 million. Neil Warnock, Managing Director, explains the value of their training programme, saying, "Our primary need was to support sustainable growth from day one. This demanded effective, happy staff and a consistently high quality approach and methodology. Every single individual has obtained new skills, and these skills have been used effectively and profitably on customer projects."

Numerous other local companies were honoured on the night, from all over the region such as LAW Training & Consultancy in Kirk Ella. The geographical and commercial range of the companies honoured illustrates how much impact training and development is having on businesses in our region. The awards are run on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills by UK Skills, whose Chief Executive Jacqui Henderson said of the night, "These awards have always been about excellence, achievement and improvement. This means bottom-line benefits for employer and significant career development for individuals.

"We all benefit from a highly skilled workforce; the individuals themselves, because they are able to fulfil their potential, and the organisations who employ them because they have motivated, loyal and creative employees."

Attention now turns to the 2007 National Training Awards, and for more information about the event, or to enter the awards, visit www.nationaltrainingawards.com or telephone 0800 0191 475.



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Reaping the awards

In the space of just two years, Yorkshire's Louise Ann Wilson has gone from strength to strength. It was only in 2004 Louise began LAW Training & Consultancy but just two years on she has already been awarded the accolade of a National Training Award for the Yorkshire and Humber region.

In 2000, after the birth of her son, Louise from Kirk Ella, East Yorkshire, began a two-year Certificate in Education course, and it was then that she had the idea of starting her own training company. But working full-time, studying and bringing up a child put her under a great deal of pressure. However, she completed her BA (Hons) in 2002, resigned from the police and set up Louise Ann Wilson Training and Consultancy.

Louise now has an extensive list of clients, which is continuing to grow both nationally and internationally, and designs and delivers a range of training both within the public and private sector. Louise has been complimented on her innovative and creative style of training and her customer feedback is often exemplary.

The training Louise offers is tailored specifically to organisations' needs, her extensive client list and consistently good feedback should give companies the confidence that an excellent training package will be



produced. The training she offers includes: advanced investigative interviewing skills, conducting internal investigations for disciplinary and criminal proceedings, video interview training, drug rape, domestic violence, child protection and protection of vulnerable adults.

As a National Training Award winner Louise is considered a role model who demonstrates significant benefits from exceptionally effective learning and skills development. The award represents recognition and reward for all the hard work and achievements Louise has made and continues to make.

Luminary Solutions light the way

Enlightened learning culture fuels company growth and delivers rapid returns for clients

Luminary Solutions, of Leeds, has expanded rapidly by developing what it describes as a "unique systemic learning culture" where teaching and learning are integrated into company life - and this has now been recognised with a National Training Award.

The IT services company was formed three years ago by four colleagues who had been made redundant. The company now employs more than 30 people and has an annual turnover of over £2 million.

Luminary delivers complex IT systems integration projects based on Microsoft, Java and Ingres technologies for blue chip and government clients throughout the UK and Ireland such as TNT, the Irish Revenue Commission and the Indesit company.

"Our primary need was to support sustainable organic growth from day one," said Luminary's Managing Director Neil Warnock. "This demanded effective, happy staff and a consistently high quality approach and methodology."

As a start-up company, Luminary did not have its own in-house training, but identified three basic types of learner - graduates, experienced new recruits and established employees.

A framework was designed



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that uses a network of training mentors for self-teach modules, feedback forms, a career mentor for each individual, project reviews known as "wash-ups" and an internal on-line skills tracking system ingeniously called Cleverdick.

Four basic categories are covered - the company, technology foundation skills, technology specific learning and personal development. The training is delivered through multiple channels: an initial induction programme, "boot camp" style away-days, end-of-month workshops, company weekends and planned individual training to meet specific needs.

The training programme has been an integral part of Luminary's company culture since the company was founded in October 2003.

If you need highly skilled resources to solve problems with your business critical IT applications Luminary Solutions has the expertise and skills to help you.



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