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REGIONAL REVIEW

The Newsletter from the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board

North West Region

November 2007

BEST IN CLASS!

The ECITB is committed to providing high quality training to high quality learners, and the apprentices certainly know how to do their training board proud! Their quality levels and commitment improve year after year and this year's North West award winners have demonstrated outstanding qualities.

WM Hare apprentice Ian Jasinczuk won the ECITB Award at the annual Alliance Learning Awards. Ian was nominated because of his achievements and determination on the course. Ian's tutor, Andy Thompson said Ian demonstrated ability and commitment above and beyond expectations. He's currently working on a 37 floor sky scraper in London, working with erection cranes etc in order to get a full spectrum of learning.

In addition to this, Nick Yates won the ECITB Pipefitter of the Year Award from Training 2000. Tutor Andy Hutchins said that Nick won primarily because of the quality of the work on his end of year project. "We had 11 ECITB apprentices, but Nick got the award because of the high quality of his work. He flew through the course, but he really did make his end of year project look effortless. He had eight hours to complete it, but finished it in four and his work was of a very high standard."

Centre Manager Neil Burrows explained, "It's been a pleasure to work with the ECITB. We've trained their apprentices for the past three years but this year's group was exceptionally good – a great set of lads."



TRIPLE SUCCESS

In keeping with the national trend, the number of ECITB apprentices taken on in the North West has increased this year – *trebling* the 2006 intake! To help deal with this fantastic regional upsurge, the ECITB has resourced several new partners, including Stockport College, TTE New Horizons at Ellesmere Port, Gen II at Sellafield, St Helens College, Alliance Learning at Horwich and JTL.

Regional Chair Tom Jones said the new Training Providers are also providing new ways of learning. "This is the first year the ECITB has supported the JTL apprenticeship model, which has come about as a direct response to the needs of companies such as the AT Group, PPS Electrical, Boulting and AMEC. I'm extremely pleased to report that the commitment from these companies has enabled the North West region to support 16 electrical apprenticeships through this route this year."



PICTURED LEFT:
ECITB Award winner
Ian Jasinczuk
receives his award
from Coronation
Street actress
Vicky Binns

GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES

To meet the needs of the growing nuclear industry, the ECITB has found a new Training Provider based at Sellafield. GEN II has worked with the ECITB in the past, but this year has taken on 18 apprentices destined for placement with ECITB companies working at the site. They will join more than 100 other apprentices in training.

As Sellafield gets closer to decommissioning, more engineering construction skills are needed. GEN II's Head of Operations Les Agnew explained the ECITB apprentices will be needed for the remediation process, so much of their training will be engineering construction based. However, there will be a special emphasis on safety.

"They will undergo basic training in maintenance and fabrication in their first year, but they'll be trained to use their skills in a radiological environment. In the nuclear sector, there's a heavy emphasis on safety, especially behavioural safety."

Mark Bullock, the ECITB's Senior Account Manager for the region, explained that with the phenomenal rise in the number of apprentices this year, there's a need to bring new Training Providers on board. "The GEN II apprentices will start on the community apprentice scheme before going over to employers. The nuclear industry is a growth area in terms of both decommissioning and new build and I'm delighted that companies are investing in training for young people in this specialism."



PICTURED LEFT:
GEN II 2007
apprentice intake

SMTD IN CUMBRIA

A new supervisory development programme working towards N/SVQ Level 3 in management has begun in Cumbria.

Ten ECITB member companies are participating in the training which will deliver over 25 supervisors and charge hands with the supervisory skills to carry out their jobs more effectively. The two open day release SMTD courses will be run at Sellafield, the first time they've been run in this format.

Regional Chairman Tom Jones said the ECITB is hoping to provide a general qualification to N/SVQ Level 3 standard. "This is the first time it's been done on a global scale in England and we brought organisations together to make it happen. The SMTD qualification gained will be directly linked to a National Occupational Standard Level 3 certificate – a first for the region!"

Linking the SMTD programme in with N/SVQ Level 3 hasn't been done before in England. Norman Harrison, Head of Technical, Supervisory and Management Programmes, said, "It's an exciting initiative because it's a project-based programme based in Sellafield. Doing the course in a year is fast for SMTD programmes, but at the end we're expecting to have a group of supervisors who've gained N/SVQ Level 3 in management."

CHAIR'S OVERVIEW

Regional Chair Tom Jones provides an update on what's been happening in the region.

"This year, the region has recruited 71 new apprentices which is a 300% increase compared to the 2006 intake! This is in direct response to the increasing demand for resources in the engineering construction industry.

Credit is due to employers for their commitment to training, as well as to the Training Providers themselves and the high calibre of apprentices. Thanks is due to the ECITB account management team for their work in recruiting both the apprentices and finding the necessary partners to deliver the excellence required.

Following the success of the pilots, TECSkills is coming to our region. Registrations are underway, so please contact your Account Manager for information. This is another way of attracting and developing the people we need to bridge the gap of skill shortages in the region."

NORTH WEST REGIONAL FORUM UPDATE

The next Regional Forum is due to take place in January. It is expected the following items will be covered:

- 100% retention and completion rate for apprentices trained in North West Training Centres
- 300% increase in numbers of apprentices recruited in 2007
- Regional targets for numbers of learners on TECSkills and technical and supervisory courses were exceeded in 2007
- The North West region is working with eight Training Providers to deliver cost effective apprentice training to a greater number of in-scope companies

For more detailed information view the minutes from the Forum at <http://www.ecitb.org.uk/northwestregion-forum2007>

REGIONAL FORUM 2008 DATES*

23 January 2008
14 May 2008
17 September 2008
17 December 2008

**Please note these dates may be subject to change.*

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