Apprenticeship Awards 2009

City & Guilds champions the Apprenticeship Awards for the fifth successive year!

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City & Guilds announces its sponsorship of the 2009 Apprenticeship Awards

City & Guilds are delighted to announce that it is sponsoring the 2009 National Apprenticeship Awards to be held in July. This is the fifth successive year that City & Guilds is the premier sponsor of the Apprenticeship Awards, highlighting the successful partnership enjoyed by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and City & Guilds in promoting Apprenticeships.

Chris Jones, City & Guilds Director General commented: “City & Guilds, the UK’s leading vocational awarding body, offers skills for a brighter future. We’re proud to sponsor the Apprenticeship Awards for the fifth year running.”

The Apprenticeship Awards are designed to recognise employers who are successfully using Apprenticeships to improve their businesses’ performance and champion the key role apprentices play in today’s business world. Apprenticeships are crucial for providing employers with the skills they need to succeed, particularly in the current climate, spanning the breadth of the economy from accountancy and engineering, to construction, creative industries and sport. Apprenticeships also provide a high-quality alternative route to future career success for ambitious individuals.

There are five categories for employers depending on company size: Micro (1-9 employees), Small (10-49 employees), Medium (50-249 employees), Large (250-4,999 employees) and the new Macro size category that will cover businesses with over 5,000 employees. Apprentices can enter one of the three categories open to them too – Apprentice of the Year, Advanced Apprentice of the Year and Young Apprentice of the Year.
The winners’ event will be held on 16 July 2009 at Old Billingsgate Market, Central London.
-ENDS-

Notes to editors
The new Apprenticeships campaign has kicked off with the launch of this year’s Apprenticeship Awards, closely followed by the launch of a new Apprenticeships advert and seminar series with Alan Sugar and a concentration of activity around Apprenticeship Week (23 – 27 February). The campaign highlights the benefits of Apprenticeships and, as more companies realise their potential, Train to Gain skills brokers can advise businesses on their funding eligibility.

Around 200,000 apprentices start each year and more than 110,000 individuals completed their Apprenticeships in 2007. Over 130,000 businesses in England offer Apprenticeships.

The Apprenticeship Awards
There are five categories open to employers depending on their company size; Micro (1-9 employees), Small (10-49 employees), Medium (50-249 employees), Large (250-4999 employees) and the new Macro size category that will cover businesses with over 5000 employees. Employers are assessed on a number of criteria including implementation of the Apprenticeship programme, clear demonstration of the way Apprenticeships have benefited their business and the level of support provided to their apprentices.

In addition to the employer Awards, there are three categories open to apprentices - Apprentice of the Year, Advanced Apprentice of the Year and Young Apprentice of the Year.

Award Categories
Apprentice of the Year
This award acknowledges exceptional contributions to the workplace. Such an apprentice has exceeded expectations and delivered measurable benefits by, for example, making an important contribution to the development of a product or a special project.

Advanced Apprentice of the Year
This award rewards commitment to personal development and progression through learning, outstanding contributions in the workplace that have exceeded expectations as well as qualities which will inspire other apprentices to follow in their footsteps.

**Young Apprentice of the Year**

This award seeks to acknowledge exceptional achievements during the two-year Young Apprenticeship Programme. Judges are looking for young apprentices who have made the most of their time on the programme and who have demonstrated considerable progress both personally and in their studies.

**Learning and Skills Council:**
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally

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