LSC LAUNCHES COLLEGE FINANCE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2006/07

- Deadline for entries is 23rd February
- Entries to: collegiatefinancedirector0607@lsc.gov.uk

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is calling for nominations for its College Finance Director of the Year Award 2006/07. The award promotes excellence and good practice in the Further Education (FE) sector and recognises and celebrates the achievements of individual College Finance Directors.

Nominations of up to 300 words are invited from Principals and Finance Directors who want to nominate a colleague or peer in another college. Nominations should highlight a specific aspect of work that has been implemented effectively within the last year. All nominations should be sent to collegiatefinancedirector0607@lsc.gov.uk by 23 February 2007 and the winner will be announced in March 2007.

Successful entries will need to demonstrate their strengths in the following areas:

- A business-like approach to college activities
- Operational improvement or recovery
- Good financial performance
- Successful capital investment to improve capacity and quality
- Responsiveness to employers, learners and communities
- Efficiency gains in front-line and non-teaching operations.
Richard Healey, LSC’s Director of Finance and Chairman of the judging panel, said:

“Strong financial management skills are vital to the success of any college and to the FE sector as a whole. The award illustrates the specific strategic influence which Finance Directors can have in securing the continuing success of their colleges. This is the third year that we’ve run the award and I’m really looking forward to the challenge of reviewing the nominations.”

Julian Gravatt, Director of Funding and Development at the Association of Colleges (AoC), said:

“College Finance Directors have one of the toughest finance jobs in the public sector. This award is now a well-established way of recognising the achievements of outstanding individuals in this role.”

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

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 and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

College Finance Director of the Year Awards 2006/07:

1. Feedback
Feedback from last year’s process suggests that nominations from more than one principal or fellow finance director can add weight to nominations.

2. Last year’s winner
The winner of the College Finance Director Award for 2005 was Ian Johnston, Director of Finance at Liverpool Community College. Two runners up were also recognised for their work: Tony Bell of City College Manchester and Nirmal Borkhataria of Ealing Hammersmith and West London College.
3. Quotes about last year’s nominated finance directors included:

“He has always ensured that students and learning have been the key priority in setting the college’s financial strategy.”

“He has developed quality standards that ensure high quality and user friendly financial information for governors, managers and staff.”

“Through his careful financial management the college is in a strong position… deployment of resources is efficient and the college gives good value for money.”

“He played a leading part in developing and delivering a major capital project supported by the LSC.”

“He has provided the vision and leadership needed to make a step change investment in our IT systems.”

4. The Panel
The selection panel chaired by Richard Healey also includes: Julian Gravatt, Director of Funding and Development at the AoC; David Pullein, Finance Director, Leeds College of Building and Chair of the College Finance Director’s Group; Lynne Sedgemore CBE, Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Leadership; and Ian Johnston, last year’s winner.

5. How do I nominate?
Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Learning and Skills Council website (www.lsc.gov.uk) and the Association of Colleges website (www.aoc.co.uk). Entries must be received by 17.00 on 23 February 2007. Please submit your entry by email to CollegeFinanceDirector0607@lsc.gov.uk.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LSC Website: www.lsc.gov.uk

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