The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is issuing a final call for entries for the College Finance Director of the Year Award 2006/07, ahead of next week’s deadline.

The award is designed to promote excellence and good practice in the Further Education (FE) sector, whilst recognising and celebrating the achievements of individuals in this field. The LSC is requesting nominations, of a maximum 300 words, 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 and should be received at the LSC by **23 February 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.”

The winning College Finance Director will be announced in March 2007.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors

LSC
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.