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Press Release

CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE REACHES RECORD 2000 APPRENTICES

A teenager has become Cambridge Regional College's 2,000th apprentice – a record high for the College, which has doubled its number of apprentices in training in just nine months.

Yesterday, Cambridge MP Julian Huppert visited CRC to present Bonnie Stockdale and her employer with certificates to mark the occasion – and said he was delighted at the College's achievement.



CRC Principal Anne Constantine, 2000th apprentice Bonnie Stockdale, Cambridge MP Julian Huppert and WFL director Dawn Cowell mark the landmark figure

“Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity and I am really pleased that CRC has been so good at promoting them. Two thousand apprentices in training is a huge achievement for the College,” he said. “I am delighted to have the chance to meet Bonnie and make this presentation, and I look forward to her doing extremely well in the future.”

Eighteen year-old Bonnie, who decided to go straight into work instead of on to university, hit the landmark figure when she signed up for a business and administration apprenticeship.

The former fashion student took a full-time job at vehicle recovery business WFL Recovery after working there temporarily over the summer – and says she would recommend an apprenticeship programme to other people her age.

“I definitely think it is a good idea. I was thinking about university but I changed my mind because it is so competitive to get a job afterwards. Now I am getting a qualification and I’m earning a bit of money at the same time,” she said.

The College, one of the largest providers of apprenticeship programmes in the east of England, has seen demand for apprenticeships soaring, with more than 500 new apprentices signed up in the past few months.

Laraine Moody, CRC assistant principal for employment and skills, said more and more businesses were seeing apprenticeships as a valuable training aid.

“We are absolutely delighted to have reached a record 2,000 apprentices in training. Many, many employers recognise the advantages of staff being trained on the job, while gaining very valuable qualifications.

“WFL Recovery has a number of apprentices in training with us, of all ages, and it is a great pleasure to work with such a supportive company.”

WFL director Dawn Cowell, who is Bonnie’s mother as well as her boss, said the business had employed apprentices very successfully for years. “Apprenticeships enable our staff to train properly and help them develop their careers,” she said.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students, coming from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.