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**CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE STAFF AND
STUDENTS INVITED TO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**

Wednesday 24th October 2007

To celebrate the achievements of trainees and employees on skills programmes, a group from Cambridge Regional College went to the Houses of Parliament for the Association of Colleges (AoC) Skills for Business event on 23rd October.

Government Ministers, MPs and leaders of Sector Skills Councils (SSC) met trainees/employees this month at the Houses of Parliament. Ministers and M.P.'s publicly recognised their achievements, and met their employers to recognise their support and commitment.

Part of the day's agenda included the signing of a Skills Alliance to promote the delivery of skills training by SSCs, Employers and Colleges. Day to day relationships will be managed through Skills Groups, led by a Further Education Principal, acting as Skills Champion. The Principal of Cambridge Regional College, Rick Dearing said, "We are honoured to be invited to participate in this important event to recognize the achievements of apprentices/students and the commitment to training shown by their employers working with Cambridge Regional College".

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The CRC students who attended were George Kew, an Advanced Apprentice in Brickwork at CRC and his employer, Philip Sims from PAS Building Services. George recently won the Federation of Master Builders (FMB) Apprentice of the Year, Eastern Region.

Stuart Money, who won 2nd Prize in the FMB Apprentice of the Year, also attended, along with Amy Watson, Advanced Apprentice in Business Administration, Prince Murandu, Apprentice in Engineering, Adrian Goodman, Social Care Level 2 and Carl Briggs, who recently won the award for Senior Apprentice of the Year in Heating & Ventilation for 2006/2007.

The day involved inputs from Barry Sheerman, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee for Further Education and Skills, the Association of Colleges and David Hunter, Chief Executive of the Lifelong Learning SSC. The Skills Alliance was signed, followed by a chance for everyone to meet each other.

Each year 3.5 million learners receive education and training in FE Colleges and Colleges have on average a relationship with around 500 business. Between 1997 and 2006 4.9 million vocational qualifications were awarded through colleges.

For further information on Apprenticeships or any other course, please contact the College Information and Advice Line on 01223 226315/418249 or email enquiry@camre.ac.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Association of Colleges (AoC) was established in 1996 by the colleges themselves to provide a voice for further education at national and regional levels. AoC represents 98% of further education colleges in England, Northern

Ireland and Wales. These colleges are the largest providers of post-16 general and vocational education and training in the UK.

Skills for Business is the UK-wide network of 25 Sector Skills Councils funded and supported by the Sector Skills Development Agency. Independent and employer-led, they are uniquely placed to drive forward skills development and productivity throughout the UK.

As the UK's leading source of labour market intelligence and insight, the **Skills for Business network** is an authority on skills issues, helping to shape public policy and practice. Each Sector Skills Council is licensed by the governments of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and receives funding from both public and private sources (www.skillsforbusiness.org.uk)

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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