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## **EXPERT CLASSES HELP CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE LEARNERS DEVELOP THEIR TASTE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Friday 27 February 2009

**Cambridge Regional College (CRC) has given 10 Catering students the chance to develop their skills beyond competence in their chosen areas, by holding two expert classes this month, using ingredients from the “World’s Best Restaurant”.**



***Supun Wijesinghe, John Jackaman from Infusions Ltd, Neofit Zhelev and Tyron Wright***

The classes were carried out as part of the “From Competence to Excellence Programme”, which aims to demonstrate the difference between satisfactory skills and outstanding skills, and encourages learners to strive to meet this difference. The classes were co-hosted by the CRC and Infusions4Chefs, East Anglia’s premier supplier of catering ingredients and equipment, and focussed on new trends in cookery and presentation styles. The classes gave students an insight into the latest technology

and innovation in their field and underlined the world class skills they will need in tomorrow's workplace.

El Bulli, is a three Michelin Star restaurant in Barcelona, which has been voted "The Best Restaurant in the World" a record four times by *Restaurant Magazine*.

Infusions4Chefs is the exclusive UK importer for the restaurant's ingredients, which transform the cooking and eating experience by blending science and creativity. The learners used El Bulli ingredients in their classes to help inspire innovation and creation! Their final dishes consisted of lemon air, see-through mushroom and tarragon ravioli, spheres of béarnaise sauce and cubes of saffron and fish consommé!

Ian Sparke, Lecturer in Catering Hospitality said: "The 2009 programme was a great opportunity to follow up and build on last year's success and take our learners to the next level. This totally unique approach brings top apprentices together with the best training providers in the UK and leading employers to discover and achieve true excellence. Between us we are ensuring that we are sharing and passing on the best skills in the industry to learners. We are very proud to be part of this initiative".

The Learning Skills Council (LSC) fund the national programme, From Competence to Excellence, which aims to build on the success of the series of 500 classes held in 2008. Expert classes are running throughout England throughout January to March 2009 and over 1200 young people across the country will participate. Through the expert class programme, training providers and employers in Cambridgeshire can share best practice and contribute to a lasting skills legacy. The project is also aimed at introducing potential competitors to the concept of skills competitions and increasing the number of Cambridgeshire competitors within the regional and national competitions leading up to London 2011.

Helen France, Director of Apprenticeships at the LSC said: "The LSC believes that this programme will help apprentices and vocational learners to take their skills to world class levels. Understanding the difference between being competent and excellent is a

crucial part of any learner's journey. Expert classes also allow trainers to develop better links with employers and really promote world class skills across a range of industries. The expert input that apprentices get in these classes will be a fantastic boost to their learning and demonstrate the real value of an Apprenticeship for their future.”

There are currently 240,000 apprentices working in over 130,000 organisations in England alone, across 80 different sectors of industry. Apprenticeships are also increasingly being recognised and used as a pathway to university, often part time and with financial support from their employer whilst they continue to work.

The From Competence to Excellence programme is a stepping stone for participants, helping them move from learners to experts. With the UK WorldSkills event on the horizon, some of them may even become future entrants to the UK WorldSkills Event in London in October 2011.

CRC is one of the largest Work Based Learning providers in the Eastern Region and currently has over 800 students on Apprenticeship programmes across a diverse range of areas, such as Catering, Care, Hairdressing and Construction.

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**Notes to editors:**

For further information about expert classes please contact [insert contact details of training provider] or go to [www.fcte-events.co.uk](http://www.fcte-events.co.uk)

**About From Competence to Excellence**

Expert classes in [insert region] are being run in [insert locations] on [insert dates of first and last course]. Key partners are [insert training providers] and [employers if more detail required] with the focus on [further detail on the nature/sector of the classes being run in this region].

Funded by the LSC and delivered by Deloitte MCS Ltd, this project is supporting WorldSkills UK competitions by helping to build capacity and demand for skills competitions across vocational, educational training.

**About Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and

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skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. The LSC works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lesley Devaney, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [ldevaney@camre.ac.uk](mailto:ldevaney@camre.ac.uk)