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Press Release

CRC TRAINING EXPERT IS KEY SPEAKER AT NATIONAL ITQ CONFERENCE

Leading employment training expert John Pritchard from Cambridge Regional College was a keynote speaker at the national ITQ Conference 2010 in London, addressing delegates on the best ways to deliver the qualification to businesses.

He was the only provider to speak at the conference, and was also part of a prestigious Question and Answer panel alongside awarding bodies such as City & Guilds, OCR and BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT.

John, who oversees the College-based Employment and Skills Technology Training centre, is one of the country's top experts in ITQ – he played a key role in developing the qualification and holds a Master Practitioners' award from e-skills UK.

He told more than 200 delegates at the conference that flexibility was key to delivering the qualification, and it was essential to work with employers and unions to enable training to take place when and where they needed it. He explained how CRC had developed tailor-made programmes for staff at John Lewis and in Cambridge University colleges to extend their skills.

He also cited the case of Cambridge Fire Brigade, where CRC worked with the union to help firefighters get to grips with IT, setting up training sessions at Parkside fire station to cover all the shifts – and waiting patiently if lessons were interrupted by 999 call-outs. The pilot scheme was so successful that other fire stations are now following suit, including the control centre in Hetherset, Norfolk.

At the end of his delivery in each session, John introduced delegates to the concept of CRC's new ITQ Professional Apprenticeship, an innovative project aimed at young people wanting professional careers in the IT industry – and at employers in the sector facing recruitment problems.

Afterwards, John said the conference had been very successful and had grown from strength to strength over the past years.

“We have been getting a lot of calls asking for our help in delivering ITQ, both from companies and from providers themselves,” he said.

“ITQ is a business-focused qualification that can be tailor-made to meet all spheres of business needs - the secret of its success is its flexibility, so that it can be taught when and where it's needed by companies.

“Every employer now works with technology of some kind but most don't know how to use their IT system to benefit them in the workplace and improve productivity - they simply don't know what they don't know. Training for an ITQ produces enormous benefits to the company and the individuals, and it is aimed at filling the gaps in people's knowledge, especially those who are self-taught.”

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in 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 Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.