

19 May 2010

Press Release

## **CRC PRINCIPAL RICK DEARING TO RETIRE**

The Principal of Cambridge Regional College (CRC) is retiring this year after nearly a decade at the helm of one of the country's most successful Further Education colleges.

Rick Dearing attended his local grammar school. After graduating in Geography from Cambridge University, he qualified as a teacher and has become a champion of Further Education, including advising government bodies on key issues. He was also a leading member of the Eastern Region Learning and Skills Council.

"I'm passionate about what Colleges achieve in helping such a wide range of people to develop their skills and transform their lives," he said.

"Further Education Colleges like CRC reach parts that other educational establishments don't. As well as providing high level skills training and practical education, we provide for people who have been disadvantaged, educationally and economically. It is great to be able to support people to progress into good jobs, to higher education and into self employment."

Rick has led major change, promoting the introduction of new courses and much improved student achievement by building highly experienced, very committed staff and management teams to help transform CRC. The recent £23million redevelopment programme at the Science Park campus has seen it become one of the best equipped FE colleges in the country, helping student numbers to boom and success rates soar.

“We truly are a vocational centre of excellence and we give real economic benefit to the Cambridge region. We work closely with employers to find out what skills are needed regionally and provide courses to deliver them. We are a critical part of the economic infrastructure in this great city, providing all important skills training.”

Rick will be 60 next year, and says he is retiring at a time when CRC is going from strength to strength. “I’m leaving the College in great shape, and I’m very proud of having led a great team of staff who’ve achieved this,” he said.

**- ends -**

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto: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 Trains to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.