

15 November 2010

Press Release

CRC CELEBRATES ITS STAR STUDENTS AT GLITTERING AWARDS CEREMONY

Cambridge Regional College celebrated the achievements of its star students with a glittering awards dinner.

Twenty past and present learners from across the College were invited to be guests of honour at the inaugural Star Awards celebration, which took place during Colleges Week at CRC's The Park restaurant.



Cambridge Regional College's Star Award winners with their trophies and certificates

Among the winners were Katie Wright, an outstanding beauty therapist with a string of awards, Lee Patrick, the UK's Plumbing Apprentice of the Year, and two young

soldiers – bomb disposal hero Ryan Seary, who was badly injured on duty, and Will Stacey, currently serving in Afghanistan.

Other stars included athlete Charlotte Cox, who has been selected for the Special Olympics World Summer Games, 15 year-old engineering apprentice Jordan Simpkin and the Young Storyteller of the Year Mark Jelinek.

Two top Heating and Ventilation apprentices were also in the list of achievers – Daniel Flain, who won the eastern region H&V Senior Apprentice of the Year title, and George Morgan, who won the Junior Apprentice award.

The star students were presented with their awards by Christopher Spokes, chairman of the Governors, in front of more than 100 guests. Will Stacey's father Paul received the award on behalf of his son.

Will, who is serving with the Royal Engineers, is a former Uniformed Services student who won the award for fittest recruit in basic training and completed his airborne and commando training.

Fellow soldier Ryan, who also went into the Royal Engineers after studying on a Uniformed Services course at CRC, joined the bomb disposal squad and went on active duty in Afghanistan. He was badly injured but has fought to get back to fitness and continue with the army.

CRC principal Anne Constantine said the Star Awards night celebrated some remarkable students at the College.

“These winning individuals are an inspiration to all our learners to take their skills and achievements to the highest level,” she said. “I offer them my wholehearted congratulations.

“All the students receiving these awards have achieved something truly special; many of them have been recognised outside the College in regional and national skills competitions.”

Full list of Star Award winners:

Ashleigh Atkin, Cambridge

Hairdressing

Ashleigh is a hardworking, talented hairdressing student who won silver when she represented the College at the regional hairdressing heats of WorldSkills UK. She is now studying Media Make-up and working hard in this specialist area in the hope of competing again and returning with another medal.

Charlotte Bailey, Ramsey

Plumbing

Apprentice plumber Charlotte Bailey proved she was more than a match for the men when she was runner-up in a regional heat to find the UK's Apprentice Plumber of the Year - placing her among the top 12 in the country. Charlotte, one of only two women among 73 plumbing trainees at CRC, was chosen to represent the College because of her immense commitment and skill.

James Balderson, Ely

Catering

James was a clear winner of Catering Student of the Year at CRC after working his way up from Basic Catering, through Level 1 and 2, to complete Level 3 Advanced Professional Chef. His commitment and dedication to his studies, and strong skills in the kitchen, gained him a highly-prized position at Jamie Oliver's restaurant in Cambridge.

James Cook, Foxton

Painting & Decorating

James was named the best young painter and decorator in the east of England after completing a demanding day of testing to win the regional SkillBuild competition in St Albans, beating off stiff competition to take the top prize in the senior category. The win was the second success for talented James - last year he won the regional intermediate competition.

Charlotte Cox, Toft

Contex

Star athlete Charlotte has been piling up the medals with her talent on the track, and won four golds in the World Games for Athletes with Down's Syndrome in Mexico this year. A former BBC East Sports Personality of the Year, Charlotte has been selected for the Special Olympics World Summer Games Athens 2011 and hopes to compete in London 2012.

Jamie Easton, Sutton

Contex/IT

Jamie is a student governor who has excelled in his role and contributed enormously to raising the profile of supportive education groups within the College. He worked consistently hard when he was on the Contex programme and showed huge commitment to his role as one of the Contex group representatives before being appointed as a student governor and moving on to a full-time IT programme at CRC.

Daniel Flain, St Neots

Heating & Ventilation

Daniel is an exceptional and highly-motivated fourth-year apprentice who won the Heating & Ventilation Apprentice of the Year award at CRC before going on to become eastern region Senior Apprentice of the Year in the BEST awards. Highly praised by his employers, AG Aylwards, he has gained an excellent reputation as one of their best apprentices

Ashley Gatward, Great Shelford

Carpentry

Talented carpenter and joiner Ashley won his way through to become one of just 32 finalists in this year's Ultimate Tradesman Challenge, alongside his father Michael - a huge achievement as 4,000 contestants had entered the competition to win an Aston Martin. He achieved Level 3 with distinction at CRC before going in the family business.

Karl Harding, Cambridge

Plumbing

Karl represented the College in the regional competitions of the UK Apprentice Plumber of the Year, competing against the best in the area to win third place. During his Apprenticeship, he worked on both bathroom plumbing and central heating and is now self-employed, specialising in renewable energy systems.

Mark Jelinek, Cambridge

Performing Arts

Aspiring actor Mark took the UK's Young Storyteller of the Year title with a magical and entrancing performance of a folk tale from Hungary, his native country. The 18 year-old student enthralled the judges at Birmingham to win the contest against strong competition from all over the country, using the skills learned during storytelling workshops at the College.

Marketa Krivakova, Cambridge

ESOL/Teacher Training

Marketa has been studying at CRC since September 2007, and achieved ESOL Level 2 last year. She is now undertaking a teacher training course with a view to teaching English in her native Czech Republic. Marketa has always shown unflinching commitment, perseverance, enthusiasm and dedication to her goal and is an inspiration to staff and students.

Ellen Mitchell, Ely

Prince's Trust

Ellen is one of our stars from the Prince's Trust programme. Despite the challenges she faced as a deaf learner, she worked hard as a member of the team and engaged in a lot of discussion work. She was always positive, upbeat and patient and an inspiration to others - even teaching the rest of the team sign language for their final presentation.

George Morgan, Great Chesterford

Heating & Ventilation

George won Junior Apprentice of the Year 2010 at the BEST/HVCA East of England Building Services Engineering Training awards for his high standard of work during his first year, both in the classroom and in the workplace at Burwell Mechanical Services. His exceptional work has continued into his second year, with well-researched assignments and a high level of practical skills.

Laura Nicholas, Haverhill

Media Make-up

Laura, a talented special effects artist with her eyes on a career in the film industry, beat off strong opposition to win a silver award in the national Media Make-up finals of WorldSkills UK. It was the first time a CRC student had entered in this specialist area, and Laura's stunning entry of an alien's costume proved a big success.

Lee Patrick, Sutton

Plumbing

Lee proved himself at the very top of his field when he was crowned the UK's Plumbing Apprentice of the Year - an immense achievement after a tense two-day competition at Olympia watched by television crews and thousands of spectators. Despite all the attention, his concentration, superb skill and careful attention to detail resulted in excellent marks in all the challenges he faced.

Ryan Seary, Cambridge

Uniformed Services

Ryan took on one of the toughest jobs in the army when he joined the Royal Engineers bomb disposal team after studying for a National Diploma in Uniformed Services. Badly injured on duty in Afghanistan, he returned to a hero's welcome. Despite his injuries, he has fought to get back to fitness and continue with the Army

Jordan Simpkin, Cambridge

Engineering

Just 15 years old, Jordan won the “Star in the Making” Engineering Young Apprentice of the Year award at CRC and is focused on a career in the motor industry. He is well on target to complete his Level 2 qualification and has shown great commitment to his work experience placement in a motor cycle repair business.

Will Stacey, Cambridge

Uniformed Services

Will, who studied the National Diploma in Uniformed Services, went on to join the Royal Engineers, where he won the award for fittest recruit in basic training. He completed his gruelling airborne and commando training, and gained his physical training instructor qualification. He has completed several tours of duty in Afghanistan - where he is currently serving - and sets an outstanding example of achievement.

Katie Wright, St Ives

Beauty Therapy

Katie is among the top beauty therapists in the country, a WorldSkills UK winner and one of CRC’s most successful Beauty Therapy students. She won first place at the regional WorldSkills UK competition, went on to take gold in the national finals and was selected to compete to represent the UK at WorldSkills 2011. She is now in the final UK squad of just two, after a series of exacting tests.

Andrew Youle, Over

Contex/Motor Vehicle

Andrew started on a Contex programme before studying motor vehicle maintenance and repair, where his great work and determination earned him Best Overall Learner of his Group. His hard work and dedication saw him pick up another prize - this time for Most Improved Learner of his Group. He works at Andy’s Kars and is now on a Level 2 course.

- ends -

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 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 work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.