

NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE! NEWS RELEASE!

**LOCAL COLLEGE CELEBRATES AS IT WINS
BUSINESS TRAINING AWARD**

Friday 21st November 2008

Cambridge Regional College has been chosen as ‘Train to Gain Provider of the Month’ for October 2008. The Award is given by the Learning & Skills Council in recognition for the College’s performance and responsiveness to the needs of the employers. The award comes as the College has reached its challenging, first quarter targets for Train to Gain.

Steve Caley, Vice Principal for Employment and Skills commented: ““I am delighted that our extensive work with employers has been recognised by the LSC. We have had a fantastic start to the year and have already allocated £2m of our contract to Cambridgeshire companies. It is vital that employers continue to invest in skills, especially in the current economic climate. As well as increasing productivity in the short-term, we know that employers who don’t train are 2.5 times more likely to fail than those who do. We are very keen to work with business and use the funding we receive to assist them in achieving their goals”



Terry Youll, Janet Meenaghan, Glen Moore, Ann Keen, Andy Wood, Pam Adams, John Chappell

The College was this year awarded a contract of over £5m to train employees across the region and has a long history of working locally, regionally and nationally with employers delivering a wide range of qualifications and skills. Dedicated and specialist staff are available to help identify the ways in which training and development can best have an impact on performance and will work with companies to design programmes appropriate to the needs of their workforce. The College's experience ranges from working with large retailers such as John Lewis through to small start up businesses.

Train to Gain is a national skills service that support employers of all sizes and in all sectors to improve the skills of their employees as a route to improving their business performance. The Service offers skills advice on everything from Investors in People, basic skills through to leadership and management training. Support for training in the workplace formed the cornerstone of the Government's recent £350m support package for small and medium businesses.

"In the current economic climate we are finding that many businesses are looking at how they can work smarter, not harder. We have spent time with lots of different organisations looking closely at business improvements. We work with over 1000 businesses from engineering companies to car dealerships and from food packaging organisations to the NHS. I would like to thank all our partner employers for helping us reach our challenging, first quarter target for Train to Gain. The College has a further £3m to spend so we look forward to sharing this with businesses across the region", explains Steve Caley.

Since its launch in 2006, Train to Gain has helped over 570,000 employees in England get training, and over 291,000 learners have achieved a qualification. An evaluation published this year revealed that some 43 per cent of people who had completed their training reported having received a pay rise, and 30 per cent reported having had promotion. Funding for Train to Gain will increase from £520 million in 2007-08 to over £1 billion by 2010-11.

Eight members of the Housekeeping Team at Darwin College, Cambridge, recently received their NVQ in Housekeeping through the funding. The Housekeeper, Christine Wright, commented, "I have seen a real improvement in the work of the staff that have done the training. They have a greater awareness of Health and Safety issues, and now take an active part in record keeping. They take their roles more seriously and learning together has made them feel part of the team. They also have a really positive attitude to other training we run here, which is great. Participating in this has raised standards across the entire team".

If you have a local company and would like to benefit from the available training, please contact Cambridge Regional College on 01223 418200.

The College will be presented with the award at a presentation at Abington Hall on Tuesday (25 November).

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lara Jodin, Marketing Manager, on 01223 418772 or Lesley Devaney, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773.