

## **Press Release**

# **WINDFALL FOR EMPLOYERS WHO TAKE ON APPRENTICES**

**19 January 2010**

**Regional employers are being offered a share in a £1.25million windfall fund if they take on apprentices – but only until the end of March.**

Cambridge Regional College, which runs one of the leading apprenticeship schemes in the country, will administer payments to companies who take up the offer of employing a young apprentice through one of their programmes.

Companies will receive a £2,500 payment - £1,500 immediately and £1,000 after 12 weeks – when they employ a 16 or 17 year-old apprentice by creating a new opening. The cost of training will be fully met by the national Apprenticeship Programme.

Angela Hughes, who heads up the apprenticeship programme at Cambridge, said this was a great opportunity for employers who might have been hesitating about taking on young apprentices during the credit crunch.

“This new funding is aimed at providing another 500 apprenticeship places for 16 and 17 year-olds in the eastern region. We can offer apprenticeships in a wide range of fields, including construction, engineering, catering, hairdressing and plumbing, so there really is something for everyone.

“There will be no delay in employers receiving their grant; as an approved training provider we are responsible for processing payments to employers, who will receive two prompt payments - £1,500 when the young person starts their Apprenticeship programme and a further £1,000 after 12 weeks.”

The grant, which is available immediately, is aimed particularly at small and medium sized employers who are interested in employing an apprentice for the first time, or who want to employ an additional apprentice over their traditional level of recruitment.

Nationally, the Government has committed £12.5million to the scheme to support an extra 5,000 young apprentices.

All funding needs to be committed before the end of March – no starts after the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 can be supported, which means the apprentice will need to be employed and registered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The minimum wage for an apprentice is £95 a week.

For more information see the Cambridge Regional College website

[www.camre.ac.uk/employers](http://www.camre.ac.uk/employers)

**Note:** The College will be holding a series of events to mark National Apprenticeship Week in the first week of February, including an Apprentices Jobs Fair in the College’s SmartLIFE building on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2pm to 6pm. Employers wishing to take part in the free event should contact Greg Hanrahan on 01223 226403.

**- 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 works with more than 400 local employers to offer training for people aged 16 to 24 and beyond. The College currently offers over 40 apprenticeship courses, with more regularly added. Subjects include business administration, retail, childcare, catering, management, plumbing and vehicle maintenance.

The College also has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.

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 around 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.