



Further recognition for Cambridge Regional College at Westminster

Cambridge Regional College attended a national awards ceremony in Westminster, London earlier in the week, to collect a prestigious AoC Beacon Award for its outstanding contribution to Further Education. The College was presented with its Award by Siôn Simon MP, Minister for Further Education.

Cambridge Regional College won the Edge Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning for its innovative construction curriculum, which gives students access to career opportunities in the construction projects emerging in the Cambridgeshire growth area. The College has excellent partnerships with manufacturers of modern building systems in the area and representatives from the manufacturers work with students and staff to demonstrate modern construction techniques.

The College was selected from more than 300 applications to win a Beacon Award, which recognise the achievements of colleges in a variety of categories, such as Promoting Equality and Diversity, Engagement with Employers and Lifelong Learning. The AoC Beacon Awards, which recently celebrated fifteen years of rewarding outstanding teaching and learning in further education colleges, provide national recognition for excellence and innovation as well as acknowledging the talents of staff at all levels who work in the further education college sector.

Siôn Simon MP, Minister for Further Education, said:

“I’m delighted to present the AoC Beacon Awards to these colleges, which have demonstrated exemplary practice in the FE sector. They are leading the way in further education, showcasing

innovative approaches to both teaching and learning and providing successful models that can be rolled out across all colleges in the UK.

“The Awards highlight the achievements of the further education sector across areas such as inclusion, technology and creating employer partnerships, demonstrating its adaptability in responding to the needs of students, and the demands of businesses and local communities.”

Vice Principal for Cambridge Regional College, Chris Lang, said:

“The College is thrilled to have won such a prestigious national award – these really are like the Oscars of the Further Education sector. To have won it in such an important area, the delivery of innovative practical teaching and learning in the construction sector, makes it even more pleasing. The SmartLIFE project in partnership with the County Council has been a growing success story every year.”

President of the AoC Charitable Trust, Giles Long MBE, commented:

“The AoC Beacon Awards bring the superb work of UK Colleges into the limelight, providing the recognition they deserve. As a former FE student myself, I fully support the AoC and the Beacon Awards and would like to extend my congratulations to all winners.”

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

Notes to Editors:

1. The Beacon Awards programme was established in 1994 under the auspices of the Association for Colleges, at the suggestion of The Partnership Trust. The Partnership Trust wished to establish an awards programme for the Further Education sector after a similar awards programme for the Higher Education sector proved successful.
2. The Awards started with just six sponsors in their first year and 13 award categories. A total of 101 applications were received from 61 colleges and the winners were announced at the Annual Conference in Edinburgh. It now regularly attracts around 300 applications a year for more than 20 Awards.

3. The award winning colleges in 2008 are:

AQA Award for College/School Partnerships

Award winner

New College Stamford

Association of Colleges Award for Widening Participation

Award winner

City College Norwich

Becta Award for e-enabling Organisational Development

Award winner

Coleg Menai

British Council Award for International Student Support

Award winner

Stevenson College Edinburgh

CLA Award for Creativity in Writing, Art or Design

Award winner

Sussex Downs College

Centre for Excellence in Leadership Award for Leadership of Innovation in Curriculum Development

Award winner

Lewisham College

Churches' Award for Sustainable College Partnerships that Recognise Diversity and Develop People and Communities

Award winner

Bridgwater College

City & Guilds Award for Staff Development in Further Education

Award winner

Grimsby Institute of F&HE

Edexcel Award for Lifelong Learning

Award winner

National Star College

Edge Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning

Award winner

Cambridge Regional College

FENC Award for the Creative Production, Adaptation and Delivery of Learning Resources

Award winner

Aberdeen College

Jardine Lloyd Thompson Benefit Solutions Award for Health and Community Care

Award winner

South Devon College

Learning and Skills Council Award for 14-19 Collaboration

Award winner

City of Bristol College

Learning and Skills Council Award for College Engagement with Employers

Award winner

Telford College of Arts and Technology

Learning and Skills Council Award for Equality and Diversity

Joint winner

Bradford College

Joint winner

Lewisham College

Make Your Mark Award for Enterprise

Award winner

Ystrad Mynach College

Mercers' Company Award for Science or Mathematics

Award winner

Salford City College

Network for Black Professionals Award for Promoting Race Equality

Award winner

West Thames College

OCR Award for Functional Skills

Joint winner

Bridgwater College

Joint winner

Hull College

RNIB and Mencap Award for Students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

Award winner

Thames Valley University

Welsh Assembly Government Award for College Engagement with Employers

Award winner

Coleg Llandrillo