



Double Awards Celebration for the City

On Tuesday 8th September 2009 local Edinburgh project Transition, managed by Access to Industry, beat off over 500 competitors from across Scotland to receive 2 prestigious awards from the Scottish Learning Partnership for the 5th year in a row.

Transition learners were recognised for overcoming significant barriers to learning by winning the individual SQA Learner of the Year Award as well as the Highly Commended Group Award for the STV region.

As part of the International Adults Learners Week these awards were presented at the Scottish Adult Learning Awards Ceremony at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel.

Steven M, a recovering alcoholic, was presented with the individual SQA Learner of the Year Award after achieving 7 SQA qualifications and moving on to full time employment whilst on the Transition programme.

Transition, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, is a mini college environment based in the centre of Edinburgh which enables recovering substance users to study a programme of SQA qualifications every day of the week. Steven regained his confidence at Transition and gained an impressive 7 SQA qualifications as well as Food Hygiene and First Aid Certificates. Steven moved into employment in April 2009 as a shop assistant and has since been promoted to supervisor.

Upon receiving his award, Steven said:

'When I have had to ask for support from Transition, they have shown me the right path. Since I started work, it's a great feeling to know what has changed in my life. If you put the effort in you will gain the reward'.

In addition to the Individual Winner the Access to Industry Transition programme scooped a group award for the partnership with NHS/LEAP – Lothian Edinburgh Abstinence Programme. This impressive group of learners won the Highly Commended group award from Scotland's Learning Partnership at the same annual awards ceremony; an outstanding achievement to be recognised for both the individual and group awards.

The group of 48 learners picked up this award for their achievement in overcoming constraints to return to learning through addiction. Since the start of this unique partnership in September 2007– the first of its kind in Scotland combining recovery treatment with employability progression routes - 82 SQA accredited qualifications have been achieved by LEAP graduates attending the structured Transition programme and 13 of them have moved into further education including 2 to University.

Access to Industry -Transition and LEAP are delighted to have won this group award beating other nominations for adults returning to learning.

Sian Fiddimore, Chief Executive of Access to Industry said

"It is fantastic for the students' achievements to be recognised in this way as it reinforces to them that through their determination and commitment to learning they can move on in their lives. At Access to Industry we believe that education is the key to progression and a life long tool to assist people to reengage positively in their local communities and to the wider economy. We are delighted for all the winners today and would like to thank our partners in contributing to this success."

Notice to Editors

Photos can be supplied to accompany this article.

Access to Industry is funded by the South East Forum and supports excluded people to further education and employment across the South East of Scotland.

Transition, managed by Access to Industry is funded through the Big Lottery Fund.

Through SQA qualifications, work placements, and training opportunities, we support and motivate clients to move back into work and further education.

For more information on Access to Industry, and Transition Projects call Sian Fiddimore (Chief Executive) on 0131 260 9721 ; www.accesstoindustry.co.uk