



ADULT LEARNING
INSPECTORATE

ALI0305

31 March 2005

THREE ‘OUTSTANDING’ TICKS FOR WOMEN’S TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Staff and learners at a specialist training organisation, which aims to develop the skills of unemployed and low-paid women, are today over the moon after being awarded a triple grade 1 “outstanding” by the government’s Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI).

The Women’s Technology and Education Centre (WTEC), also known as Blackburne House, located in the city centre of Liverpool, was awarded the three highest grade 1’s – achieved only by a handful of organisations in the country – for its foundation programmes and for its approach to leadership and management and equality of opportunity.

There are 710 learners studying across three areas of learning – Business administration, management and professional, information and communications technology and hospitality, sport, leisure and travel.

The Adult Learning Inspectorate also awarded WTEC, established in 1983, a grade 2 “good” in each of the above mentioned areas of learning and also for its approach to quality assurance. This string of “outstanding” and “good” grades is a rare achievement and highlights the very high standard of provision.

Susan Cummins, a learner on the constructive women’s course described how she, as a single parent with four teenage children and a part-time job, had “no prospects.”

“A friend recommended I came along to an open day at Blackburne House. The centre, its teachers and my fellow students have given me a new lease of life and a new feeling of confidence, so much so, that my future career prospects look much more promising”, said Susan.

Single mum Heather Howearth, who is studying for an advanced diploma in IT, said she would not have gained her qualifications if it wasn't for Blackburne House education. “It has made a real difference in my life”, she said.

Claire Dove, Chief Executive at WTEC, said:

“We have been providing educational and training opportunities to women for over 20 years with the view to helping women achieve economic independence. It is both the staff and students that make Blackburne House such an inspirational place in which to study and we are delighted that this has once again been recognised on a national basis.”

David Sherlock, Chief Inspector of Adult Learning, said: “We are really pleased to report that learners at Blackburne House are benefiting from the organisation's high quality approach. When people improve their skills and achieve their qualifications they benefit their organisation, their communities and themselves.”

ENDS

Editor's Notes:

1. Interviews and photographs are available by contacting Dhiren Katwa on 024 7671 6703.
2. The ALI is a government body responsible for raising the standards of education and training for young people and adults in England by inspecting and reporting on the quality of learning provision they receive. The remit covers: work-based training for all people over the age of 16; education for people aged over 19 in further education colleges; all adult and community learning; e-learning via learndirect provided by Ufi Limited and its partners; training delivered under the New Deals; learning in prisons and training provided by private industry at the employer's invitation. The Common Inspection Framework is used to inspect all these areas. To find out more visit: www.ali.gov.uk.
3. To see a copy of the report go to the reports section of www.ali.gov.uk. Two reports are available, the left hand link will take you to a report summary and the right hand link will take you to the full report. Inspectors use a five point scale to summarise their judgements about the quality of learning and

training. The descriptors for the five grades are: Grade 1- outstanding, Grade 2 – good, Grade 3 – satisfactory, Grade 4 – unsatisfactory, Grade 5 – very weak.

ISSUED BY DHIREN KATWA AT THE ADULT LEARNING INSPECTORATE.

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