

A Fellowship for an Outstanding Woman, July 2004.

Chief Executive of Blackburne House and Women's Technology and Education Centre, Claire Dove MBE, is set to receive an Honorary Fellowship from Liverpool John Moores University.

Claire will receive this accolade at the Graduation Ceremony on Friday 25th July at the Liverpool Anglican Cathedral for her outstanding contribution to reducing social exclusion in Liverpool - in particular the role of women in relation to new technologies.

Claire, originally from Toxteth, has been at the forefront of ensuring that women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds have access to educational and training opportunities.

"I am truly honoured to receive this recognition for the work I have undertaken. Attempting to reduce social exclusion is not an easy task but both myself and the staff at Blackburne House are truly committed to achieving this. I have always enjoyed my work and it is extremely uplifting to see the transition of women who come to Blackburne House and the difference that our organisation can make to their lives and families. We believe that Blackburne House has made a major contribution to the regeneration of Liverpool by the many thousands of women we have successfully skilled."

Claire has been Chief Executive of the Women's Technology and Education since its inception at the beginning of the 1980's and developed the strategic vision to take the organisation centre stage by moving from rented space and relocating to Blackburne House, a Grade II listed building that underwent a £4 million refurbishment.

The move marked a key stage in the organisation's development, allowing it to set up a comprehensive range facilities and social businesses within the new development to support its educational aims. Blackburne House is recognised nationally and internationally and is one of Merseyside's original and most successful social enterprises and is an officially designated centre of excellence