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***Creating Change for Women and Girls in Science Engineering,
Construction and Technology***



The Blackburne House Group will be launching the JIVE Northwest Hub on Wednesday 12th July 2006 as part of the massive scheme to encourage women to enter non traditional areas of work, particularly in Science, Engineering, Construction and Technology.

From the period, 1991 to 2001, there have been a higher percentage of men employed in science, engineering and technology than women; on average 9% of all employed men compared to 2% of all employed women in SET occupations.

Alex Hunter, JIVE NW Regional Hub Manager said,

“The JIVE Northwest Hub will be a valuable source of information for both women looking to enter science, engineering and technology occupations as well as employers who are actively trying to recruit and retain women in non traditional areas of work. This launch is the first of many activities to bring women and employers together with the view to enhancing gender equality, closing the skills gap and contributing to economic growth.”

Speaking at the launch will be Rosemary Kay, Operations Director for the Blackburne House Group of Companies, Ros Wall, JIVE National Project Manager and Michelle Gillespie, a young woman from Bootle, who left a job in a cake shop and now works for British Gas Engineering Academy. Michelle works across the country and is a science and engineering ambassador.

For more information about the JIVE NW Hub launch call Blackburne House on 0151 709 4356.

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For more information about their press release contact:

Lisa Mairah
Marketing and Communications Manager
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Liverpool
L8 7PE

Telephone: 0151 708 3914

Email: lisamairah@blackburnehouse.co.uk

Website: www.blackburnehouse.co.uk

Notes to the Editor:

- Blackburne House, via Blackburne House Education, seek to transform women's lives through the provision of training and opportunities of every kind in an environment of equality inspiration.
- Blackburne House have been offering educational opportunities to women for over 20 years. The organisation has been officially recognised as a centre of excellence having been awarded Grade 1 for education provision by the LSC. The top 8% of external Adult Education Institutions in Britain only achieved this grade. In addition, the centre is ranked in the top 10% of colleges and educational providers in the UK.
- Now part of the Blackburne House Group, WTEC continues to offer a variety of courses and the training remit now encompasses not only women embarking upon education for the first time but also professional women looking to broaden their skills and enhance their career prospects and young women aged 16 to 19.
- Anyone interested in more information about Blackburne House should contact Lisa Mairah on 0151 708 3914 or via email to lisamairah@blackburnehouse.co.uk

JIVE

- JIVE (Joint Interventions) Partners is an exciting partnership of ten organisations in England and Wales along with a further four partners in Europe working together from 2002 until 2005.
- JIVE can provide a model for breaking down barriers and tackling gender stereotyping engineering, construction and technology sectors; addressing current skills shortages and thereby reducing the gender pay gap.
- JIVE can share best equality practice: providing inspiration and support for women and girls interested in or already pursuing careers in the industries whilst tackling the cultural and institutional practices that can inhibit their potential. This will not only give women access to a wider range of careers and increase their earnings potential but will provide advisors, educators and employers with positive and practical solutions for creating a more balanced workforce.
- JIVE is unique in bringing together the most segregated sectors of industry seeking to achieve a more diverse workforce and bottom up equality training organisations experienced in developing and promoting good gender equality practices who will assist them to break down occupational segregation.
- For more information about the JIVE Northwest Hub contact Alex Hunter at Blackburne House on 0151 709 4356 or via email to alexhunter@blackburnehouse.co.uk