



## EASTLEIGH COLLEGE TRAINING AMBASSADOR AWARDS

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Eastleigh College presented awards to five companies in recognition of their outstanding support to staff development and training.

The winners were selected by the College's senior management team and selection criteria included employers who go beyond the call of duty to promote and invest in learning and development, and employers who continuously invest in training. The five successful organisations were Office for National Statistics, Seddon Property Services, Southampton Solent University, RJC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd. and **The West Group Ltd.**

In receiving our award, **Best Advocate for Training**, we first have to thank Adam for nominating us. Some fifty employers were nominated for an award, so we can be proud to be amongst the five finalists for employer commitment and mentoring. For that, credit has to once again go to Adam for providing the necessary evidence and commitment to successfully supporting the criteria for recognition (see the facebook link below).

The West Group Ltd decided some three years ago to invest in a formal Apprenticeship scheme, which received sponsorship from VT Training (now Babcock International), and involved a day-release academic element at Eastleigh college. In studying for the **Advanced Apprenticeship** Adam undertook six units of **Performing Engineering Operations**, five key skills in **Improving Own Learning** and **Working With Others**, and two years of NVQ Level 3 **Technical Certificate** at Eastleigh College. Whilst here at The West Group, Adam has become an expert at Pneuchange assemblies and has demonstrated a particular affinity for technical writing. He has played a significant part in the development of our air line ring main system, something which will soon be extended further into the rear workshop. He has considerable Production Assembly experience, has become particularly adept at 80-20 build, and shows a keen understanding and ability in Quality Assurance techniques.

Adam is now in the final months of his 3-year apprenticeship with us. In that time he has gained an invaluable amount of learning and experience in the “nuts and bolts” of all West Group activities, to an extent that few of us are lucky enough to enjoy. In the coming weeks, Adam will complete his apprenticeship and become a fully-fledged member of staff.

The West Group is proud to have received this award, and is committed to continuing the development of its employees through training and skills progression.

[http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=223654037647415](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=223654037647415)



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# MEDIA RELEASE

**Date – For Immediate Release**

## **Local Employers Get A Big “Thank You” From Their Trainees**

Five companies were rewarded for their commitment to staff development at the prestigious Eastleigh College Training Ambassador Awards, after being nominated by their own employees. The awards were presented by Caroline Nokes MP, after a mouth-watering 3-course lunch at the College's Red Carpet Restaurant.

The five successful organisations were Fareham-based Office for National Statistics, RJC Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd, also from Fareham, The West Group Ltd of Waterlooville, Southampton Solent University, and national company Seddon Property Services. The winners were selected by the College's senior management team and selection criteria included employers who go beyond the call of duty to promote and invest in learning and development, and employers who continuously invest in training.

Darryl Osborne, Sales Director of The West Group Ltd and recipient of the Best Advocate for Training Award, said:

“As a company, we're really strong believers in people, they're the lifeblood of a company and we take every opportunity to develop people. This [Apprenticeship] has been one step further than we normally go, but it has proved so successful that we're looking to continue it in the future”.

This was a reflection of the nomination put forward by Advanced Apprentice Adam McStravick, who said:

“The company actively encourages employees to take courses to improve their working skills or even their personal skills. I strongly feel The West Group Ltd deserve this award, as it would be a good recognition of their support and dedication to their staff.”

Winner of the Commitment to Staff Development Award was the Fareham-based Office for National Statistics. Gary Grant, Learning and Development Manager for ONS, was pleased with the impact their staff development programme has had on the organisation:

“ONS enjoys a very good relationship with Eastleigh College and the programme is going from strength to strength. Staff are able to apply what they learn to their everyday work and make a real difference. The programme is helping us to develop the skilled staff we need. We look forward to continuing our relationship with Eastleigh College and working together to help ONS staff develop the skills they need in the modern day Civil Service.”

Caroline Nokes MP commented:

“It's been a wonderful event, to be able to celebrate the contribution made both by the employers and by the Apprentices. I really admire the work Eastleigh College is doing to promote Apprenticeships, and give more young people the chance to find experience and real opportunities in the workplace”.

For information on Eastleigh College's range of training solutions, please contact the Workforce Business Development Team on 023 8091 1195 or email [btraining@eastleigh.ac.uk](mailto:btraining@eastleigh.ac.uk)