



Construction Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

NEWSLETTER

News from RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training Centre of Vocational Excellence



RESPONSE to Host SkillBuild!

RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training is delighted to announce that it will be hosting the London Regional SkillBuild Final on Wednesday 7th May 2008. This is the first time RESPONSE will host such a high profile craft event.

RESPONSE was approached to host SkillBuild as a result of consistent success in regional competitions, and regular involvement in national competitions.

Being host allows RESPONSE to further improve links with employers and local schools, and also gives our students the opportunity to see the regional finals first hand, and for some, get involved in advanced craft events at a competition level.

RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training Advanced practitioner Noel Hall, who is also one of only two technical SkillBuild judges for Carpentry & Joinery in the UK, was thrilled with the news;

"It's a great day for the College and a testament to the teachers and students that we were approached to be hosts.

RESPONSE now looks forward to preparing for the SkillBuild event, and showcasing our first class facilities and workshops for all to see".

The trades included in the competition are brickwork, plastering, carpentry and joinery, and tiling, with all finals taking place in the RESPONSE's workshops.



Outstanding Student

Congratulations to RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training Brickwork student Simone Austin (sponsored by Notting Hill Housing Trust), who was nominated for a YouthBuild Award in the Forum's 10th anniversary.

Simone was nominated as she had achieved outstanding growth both professionally and personally over the course of her project.

Youthbuilding projects;

"Empower young people to undertake vocational training in the course of constructing better communities, environments, enterprises, homes and facilities for those in need and thereby enhancing their employment opportunities and becoming involved citizens."



Word from the Director

It has been another good year for the Construction Department with continual improvements in quality, achievements and success. This is recognised by the number of accolades received such as Beacon status, CoVE full status in wood trades, plastering and dry lining, and the number of quality awards for both staff and students.

I am excited and proud to take responsibility for this area as I feel it has so much more to offer in meeting the needs of its clients. The department intends to be at the fore-front of all new teaching and learning initiatives, for example we are leading on the 14-19 Diplomas in Construction and Engineering lines. We intend to work in partnership with local schools and employers, designing appropriate programmes of study that contribute to the development of skills needed by the industry.

We have continued to increase the number of apprenticeship portfolios through our work based learning (WBL) department, which is always actively looking for companies in terms of taking on apprentices and helping the partners to access appropriate funding.

The Construction Department is committed to further development of its resources so that it reflects a first class teaching and learning environment that is 'fit for purpose' meeting the challenges to transform practical learning in workshops. Remodelling of some workspaces and investment in machinery has meant we are able to respond to new demands.

RESPONSE intends to build on its successes in construction, and will this year be hosting the Regional SkillBuild competition, this will once again help us profile the excellent work being done here.

Amrik Marwaha
College Director



The Plastering Department are Winners!



The Plastering department at our Acton site is celebrating after receiving the coveted Regency Vase by the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

The department, which is part of our Centre of Vocational Excellence in Construction Crafts, was awarded the accolade for its high quality training standards and high pass rates of mainly NVQ Level 2 and 3 plastering apprentices.

The national award comes on the back of a highly successful year for RESPONSE after it was awarded Centre of Vocational Excellence status in Construction Crafts in January.

“We are delighted to have won this award. This comes as well deserved recognition of the dedication and hard work by the team; in assisting their learners achieve their qualifications, in collaboration with the respective employers. Congratulations go the Plastering Team - Mike Brown, John Delaney and their Programme Manager Dave Carman.”

Jim Gallagher, Building Crafts & Services –
Division Manager



Carpentry & Joinery for Film

RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training is working to develop an advanced apprenticeship in set crafts through the Skillset Screen Academy.

The aim of the programme is to bridge the skills gap between existing carpentry and joinery qualifications and the needs of the film industry.



“British Film Technicians are regarded as the best in the world, now they will get the qualifications to support this”.

Students will be provided with a thorough theoretical and practical understanding of the skills and techniques they require to work on a production.

Skillset is currently looking at a program to accredit technicians in the British Film Industry such as gaffers & ‘best boys’ (electricians), grips, continuity workers and stage hands with Level 2 & 3 NVQ’s.

At present a number of students have visited Elstree Film Studios for work experience and

placements, and now a number are employed within the Industry.

Employer Forum

The Employer Forum will be held on 17th December 07, between 5.00pm to 6.30pm.

The Employer Forum consists of practical and informative presentations;

- Award winning SkillBuild judge Noel Hall will present on Apprenticeships.
- Full details will be given on Train 2 Gain, the government initiative that delivers free training.
- Notting Hill Housing Trust will lead the Employer Focus Group.
- Ealing Homes will present on Employers bidding for council contracts, supporting Employers and commitment to apprenticeships.

The Forum is an excellent networking opportunity to meet with other employers, and also learn about RESPONSE Industry Skills and Training and the services on offer. A buffet dinner will be served on the evening's conclusion.

We hope you can join us on this valuable and informative evening.





- Sell an average of 536 homes a year, including Homebuy programmes.

Employer Contribution to Teaching

RESPONSE is looking to develop Employer contribution to teaching and learning. Looking into; working relationships, encouraging secondment to college, or by other arrangements with mutual benefits to both. For further information contact Jim or Theseus, details on the right.

New On Site Assessment & Training qualification - Steel fixing

We are pleased to announce that we are now offering the NVQ Level 2 in Steel fixing.

These are in addition to current trades; Interior Systems, Plastering, Wood Occupations, Painting & Decorating, Site Supervision & Management Trowel trades will be available in the new year.

For further information contact Jodi, details on the right.

Employer profile

Notting Hill Housing

As a central London housing association we have always pioneered new housing tenures to help our customers live well in London.

We love helping our tenants and other people become homeowners. We've seen the difference it makes.

We're the leading innovators in the intermediate market, and have been at the forefront of developing low cost home ownership for people since 1979.

Our experience in these areas is outstanding.

- We manage over 4,000 low cost home ownership units
- Are a major provider of keyworker housing
- have been successful in our recent bid to pilot Social HomeBuy
- Sold over 1,000 homes under the Starter Home initiative, mostly to keyworkers

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Dates for your Diary

Employer Forum: 17th December 2007

SkillBuild Regional Final: 7th May 2008