



Construction Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE)

NEWSLETTER

News from Acton & West London College

March 2009



City & Guilds Award for College NVQ Assessor/IV



Acton & West London College is proud to report the recognition of Tom Hennigan's work as an NVQ site assessor, by the awarding body City & Guilds. Tom received the 'Highly Commended' Medal for Excellence Award, which was presented by the College Director Amrik Marwaha.

Tom is currently based at a remote office within Canary Wharf as part of the Construction OSAT team and is currently working with around 20 companies. Tom assesses employees to gain qualifications in a range of disciplines: from interior systems (dry lining) at level 2, construction site management at level 4 to A1 trainer awards.

Tom originally started his career as an apprentice plasterer and left the industry as a project manager with over 30 years experience. Tom started his work at the College as a plastering lecturer and a part-time NVQ assessor. The work as an assessor rapidly

grew and after 1 year was doing this full-time.

Tom commented:

"It is the industry experience from which I draw upon, that allows me to relate to candidates, at all levels. We leave them in their comfort zone wherever they are working, we let them get on with it, while we assess their work".

Some comments on Tom's work are:

"Tom has the great ability to get all parties involved to cooperate with each other so that the operatives are given the time and space to complete their assessments on site under Tom's expert supervision.

I must also add that Tom has the ability to deal with all levels of the work force whether they are managers, operatives, designers or labourers, every one of which is treated with the same professional manner."

Robert Maxwell, BP3 Project Manager, **Permasteelisa UK**

"A high percentage of TCL's site team at Canary Wharf originate from Eastern Europe, Tom is always sensitive to their cultural backgrounds and patient in his delivery of their training and NVQ assessment."

Jack Garlicki Site Manager **TCL** – BP3 Fit Out

"Tom's efforts are a good example of the Construction OSAT (on-site assessment & training) Team, which achieved a 93% success rate last year."

Torben Prestwich Employer Engagement Manager **Acton & West London College**



Word from the Director

Three months on from the last employer forum our country is in a period of economic downturn and recession has hit hard particularly within the construction industry with many building projects being halted or mothballed. As there are fewer opportunities for young people to get sustainable employment, this is having considerable impact on vocational training and skills development.

As educators and employers along with support from the Government we must look to drive forward opportunities for education and skills development.

On a positive note, Gordon Brown has announced plans to fund an extra 35,000 apprenticeships next year as part of the government's efforts to beat recession. The College recognises this as an important initiative and is determined to work on the basis that it gives young people the chance to get the practical training they need to get on and help ensure the country has skilled workers it needs to benefit from the eventual upturn.

The College recognises the upgrading of skills as a vital ingredient for the country to stay competitive and steer out of recession and is working towards meeting these challenges by continually seeking new methods of working with employers to deliver an appropriate curriculum that meets the needs of employers and the industry in an effort to help drive the country out of this current period of recession.



Amrik Marwaha
College Director

Tutor Profile: Dave Wood

Dave Wood is the CBE Diploma Champion for The Construction Division and also teaches the Young Apprentices at Acton & West London College. Dave says:

“I was ‘on the tools’ for 26 years before going into teaching, although my job description has varied a lot in that time. I have at various times worked as a bench joiner, cabinetmaker, antique furniture restorer, tool hire manager, bookkeeper and engineer. In between which I did a BA degree in Economic History and Sociology.”

Dave started teaching part time in 2002 and became full time the following year. He started with Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College in 2005.

Dave is well qualified with City & Guilds levels 2 & 3 in cabinetmaking and HNC in both furniture studies and engineering. At present Dave is studying for an MSc in Timber Building Conservation at Bournemouth University.





Raphael Contracting Limited



'Raphael' are based in Chessington, Surrey and have traded since 1973. They are a specialist carpentry and joinery company involved in high quality fit-out works and general building. Raphael are a 'category A' carpentry & joinery supply chain sub-contractor engaged with many of the country's largest main contractors and developers.

An affiliated company JMS Specialist Joinery Limited, based in Warwickshire, carry out bespoke joinery works and was acquired in 1991; together they have an annual turnover of £10m.

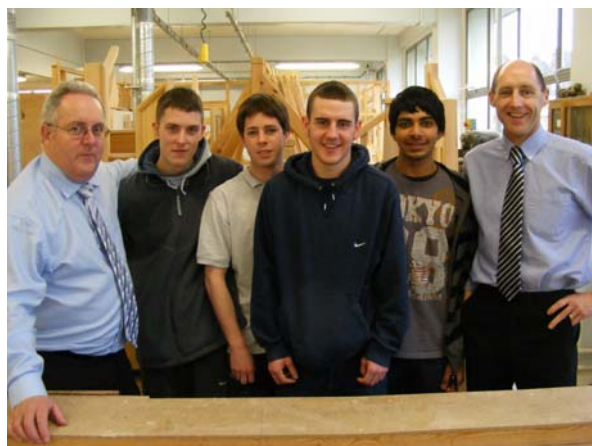
For over 15 years Raphael has had links with the College, going back to the time of the site at Lime Grove, Shepherds Bush; sending a stream of apprentices for training. Martin O'Brien the co-director of Raphael believes that with this investment in staff they are a better company. Raphael currently has four apprentices and three qualified apprentices working. Martin believes strongly in training via the traditional apprenticeship method. Each apprentice is assigned a mentor, whose responsibility is to work with the trainee ensuring they get involved in real work, where they contribute and are valued; in return apprentices are paid a generous and fair wage. Martin says: "we don't take on apprentices to make a profit out of them; we take them on to make carpenters of them".

The partnership between the College and Raphael has produced considerable and consistent success over the years, with all apprentices attaining the highest levels of achievement; to name a few:

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| Colin Sanders | Skillbuild Regional Finalist and City & Guilds Gold Medal of Excellence |
| Sean Crossan | Skillbuild Regional Finalist and City & Guilds Gold Medal of Excellence |
| Anthony Daly | Skillbuild Regional Finalist |
| Paul Burgess | Skillbuild National Finalist |

All of the above were taught by the Advanced Carpentry & Joinery Practitioner Noel Hall.

With this record it is no surprise that Raphael insists: all their apprentices must attend Acton & West London College, under the guidance of Noel Hall.



From the left Martin O'Brien with his apprentices: Kieran O'Malley, Sean Crossan, Jack Bennett, Inderjit Chand and Noel Hall their tutor.



Employer Forum

The Employer Forum will be held on 19th March, between 5.00pm to 6.30pm at Acton & West London College.

The purpose of the Construction Employer Forum is to;

- **Improve formal links between Acton & West London College and construction employers**
- **Receive and act upon employer feedback**
- **Contribute to the strategic long term planning of construction curriculum**
- **Provide an information exchange for workforce development**
- **Explore opportunities for future partnerships**
- **Provide businesses with an opportunity to contribute to the local community**
- **Networking opportunities for employers**

The Forum is an excellent networking opportunity to meet with other employers, and also learn about Acton and West London College 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. To attend please contact Martin Robbins on 020 8231 6538 or email martin.robbins@wlc.ac.uk.



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Dates for your Diary

Employer Forum:

19th March 2009

London Region SkillBuild Competition:

- hosted by Acton & West London College

6th May 2009

Following Employer Forum:

18th June 2009