

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YEOVIL COLLEGE HOLDS LARGEST EVER FURTHER EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY...

Last night, Yeovil College held its largest ever Further Education (FE) Awards ceremony at the Westland Conference and Leisure Complex, Yeovil. Nearly 400 students, staff and special guests attended the event to recognise and celebrate the success, talent and achievement of students from all disciplines across the College's full and part-time FE courses.

During the event, awards were presented to more than 90 students in seven different categories recognising personal and academic achievement, sporting success and the particular support of local employers.

There were four top student awards. The **Nicola Locke Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement** went to Ebony Court (18) of Merriott, a Travel and Tourism student who was praised by staff for her progress and improved confidence despite dealing severe health issues. The **Stephanie Pirongs Personal Achievement Award** went to Racheall Welsh (38) of Yeovil, a part-time student who volunteers for Yeovil Night Shelter and received much praise from her assessors whilst studying for her NVQ2 Health and Social Care qualification.

The **Jan Howell Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community** went to Robert Wheeler, a BND Media student who was involved in a number of high profile corporate and charity film projects, including those for the NHS, one of which led to his group receiving an award at the Somerset Education Business Partnership awards. Rob (21) of Ash, Martock, said *"It feels really good to win this award. I'm really surprised, pleased and flattered by it all."*

The **Lawrence Cove Shield for Engineering Excellence** went to Victoria Day (20) of Yeovil. Her lecturers described her as an excellent, all round student who remains completely dedicated to her career in Aeronautical Engineering. Victoria moved from Chelmsford, Essex, to Somerset specifically so she could pursue and apprenticeship with AgustaWestland. She said *"Winning this award was really a complete surprise. My parents' faces were a picture because this is the third big success I've had this year. I got my pilot's licence in May, won an Apprentice of the Year award at the Engineering Faculty awards and now this!"*

AgustaWestland also featured among this year's award sponsors. Despite the threat of the credit crunch, local employers and business were more generous than ever this year, sponsoring nearly twice as many awards as in 2008. Sponsored awards included the **AgustaWestland Apprentice of the Year** award, which went to William Rogers, and the **Advanced Apprentice of the Year** award, received by Oliver Richman. The **Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Outstanding Achievement in Maths and Science** was awarded to Katherine Coates, who consistently worked hard to achieve the top grades in her subjects. **Mulberry's Outstanding Achievement in Hospitality** award went to Lindsay Evans, who overcame learning issues and ultimately produced an outstanding NVQ portfolio, and the **Hays award for Outstanding Achievement in Business, Administration and Finance** was received by Krzysztof Jandy, a very enthusiastic student who worked hard to successfully overcome the trials and tribulations of studying in a foreign language. The **Royal Air Force award for Outstanding Achievement in Health and Social Care** went to Lucy McIntosh, described as fully deserving the high grades she achieved, while the **BAE Systems' award for Outstanding Achievement in IT and Computing** was given to Tom Raybould, who achieved triple distinctions in his BTEC National Diploma qualification. The four **Buck and Hickman Outstanding Achievement in Engineering** awards, also known as the 'Golden Spanners', which went to Kiah Rance, Elliott Hemmings, Sam Moore and Kyle Bishop, students who have made excellent progress and shown high levels of workmanship during their course.

Organisations also sponsored personal achievement awards, such as the **Western Gazette Outstanding Personal Achievement** awards, presented to Pamela Symes, who returned to education after a gap of over 60 years, and Karen Barton, who admirably balanced family responsibilities with her studies. The **Numatic Outstanding Personal**

Achievement award went to a Health and Social Care student, described by her lecturers as a shining example of Yeovil College success. The **Battens'** Student Endeavour award went to Holly Francis, a Foundation Learning student who has overcome many personal obstacles during her time at College, and the **Yeovil Town Football Club** Outstanding Personal Achievement award was given to Daniel Howell, who not only achieved a distinction in his BFD ICT Practitioners qualification, but also always had time for others.

A number of new awards were also presented this year for the first time, including the 14-16 Student of the Year award, sponsored by Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing. Andy Perlejewski, Director of the 14-19 Curriculum, was the Master of Ceremonies at the event. He said *"The number of our students aged 14 to 16 has increased rapidly over the past few years and, with the introduction of the new Diplomas, it looks like an area that will continue to grow. As such, we felt it was the right time to introduce a new award recognising their hard work and contribution to the College."*

An **'Employer of the Year'** category was also introduced for the first time this year. The first ever winners were Southernprint Ltd and The Wessex Group, both of which were praised for their support of the staff and students who work with them to complete apprenticeships. Simon Morgan, Executive Director of the Wessex Group, said *"We're absolutely delighted to receive one of the first Yeovil College Employer of the Year awards. We particularly enjoy working with the College because it is an organisation that recognises the positive contribution employers such as ourselves can make towards student development. It is a common complaint among employers that too many institutions educate young people without allowing them to develop the skills which will make them excellent employees in the future. I am happy to say that Yeovil College is not one of those organisations."*

Shelley Poole, HR & Operations Coordinator for Southernprint Ltd collected their award. She said *"Southernprint is very honoured to receive one of the first Employer of the Year Awards. We have worked closely with Yeovil College to provide training to Southernprint employees in a number of fields, including print, print finishing, administration and management, and have always been impressed with the services provided by the College. We look forward to many more years of working in partnership with the College to provide training that helps our staff and our business to grow."*

A group of BFD Health and Care students received this year's **Volunteering and Community award** for their hard work fundraising for the Yeovil Night Shelter. The award was presented to them by Chris Gibbons, Manager of the Shelter. Lizzie Cassidy, Emma Cornealius, Becky Evans, Claire Hawkins, Sam Paull, Ayesha Putman, Emily Symes, Sam Thorne and Hannah Walters made up the group. Health and Care lecturer Denise Hodgson said *"These students were absolutely outstanding. I am very proud indeed of the them. The fact they raised so much for the Night Shelter and alongside all their coursework is outstanding. Seeing them all together again after all this time is lovely."*

Yeovil College students have continued to have significant **sporting success** this year too. The men's volleyball team qualified for the British College's national final after winning the South West regional final. The men's football team also won their regional heat and took silver at the British College's National Championships. Individuals who received recognition included athlete Ben Gibb, who represented Great Britain in the decathlon, as well as fundraising as a sporting superstar and coaching, and gymnasts James Bell and Fiona Wood, who qualified for the British Gymnastics squad and won Gold competing at the European championships. Netballers Jessica Carrena, who was selected for both the England Colleges squad and the British Colleges' South West team, and Sophie Cooper, who was selected for the British College's South West squad, also received prizes, as well as rugby players Sam Bennett and Jake Woolmore, who were chosen for the England College's team, British Colleges' South West hockey players Micheal Gibson, Matt Haskett and Matt Ringrow and British Colleges' South West squad hockey players Kathryn Holmes and Claire Pearce. Kathryn captained the regional team. Finally, rugby players Holly Edmonds, Kristina Harpur, Abi Harrison, Kathryn Holmes and Ellie Sutherland were part of the British Colleges' South West squad which won silver at the national championships. Holly, Abi and Kristina were also selected for the England Colleges' team.

This year's guest speaker was award winning producer, director, journalist and film-maker Ray Tostevin. Mr Tostevin, who is creative director with Somerset-based company GRACE Productions, said *"I was very pleased to be involved with this year's FE Awards. After receiving such memorable support from the students with the Somerset premier of 'Charlotte: A Royal at War' earlier this year, it just seemed a natural thing to do, to give something back. We had so much help from the Media and Hospitality students on the day and in the lead up to the event, it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to again publicly thank them again. I look forward to working with some of the students again in 2010."*

The event also included a sneak preview of the 2010 Yeovil College production, **'Little Shop of Horrors'**, which will be returning to the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil next February after a two year break. Students Lorna Hinton (playing Audrey) and Will Poulton (Seymour), along with Anishka Klass, Stella Bartle and Sian Lloyd as Crystal, Ronette and Chiffon performed 'Suddenly Seymour' for the delighted crowd.

The FE Awards 2009 was also supported by Media students led by lecturer Steve Braddick, responsible for multimedia elements of the awards show, and Performing Arts students Kayleigh Kaur and Nathan Deleon, who read out the winners' best memories of the College as they collected their awards.

Yeovil College Principal James Hampton said “Events like this are a highlight of the year for me. As part of my role with the College, I am invited to many different award ceremonies, but no matter how many events I attend, it still gives me a thrill to share in the success and achievement of learners. 2008/9 was a very successful year for Yeovil College, with students on full-time A Level programmes achieving a 99.5% pass rate and a 97% pass rate in Level 3 Vocational courses. However, we must remember that college is about experience as much as results. I am delighted to say that Yeovil College offers students extensive travel, sporting and performance opportunities which give the opportunity to grow and succeed beyond the confines of the classroom. As well as celebrating vocational and academic achievement, these awards are also about personal endeavour and I am very proud to be part of an event which recognises the excellence of our students in all areas.”

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Notes to Editors

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Complete List of Sponsors

This year’s award sponsors were AgustaWestland, BAE Systems, Battens Solicitors, Buck and Hickman, Hays, Mulberry’s, Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing, Numatic International, Royal Air Force, Western Gazette and Yeovil Town Football Club.

Awards and Winners

Top Awards

Award	Winner
Lawrence Cove Shield for Engineering Excellence	Victoria Day
Nicola Locke Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement	Ebony Court
Jan Howell Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community	Robert Wheeler
Stephanie Pirongs Personal Achievement Award	Racheall Welsh

The **Lawrence Cove Shield for Engineering Excellence** is awarded in memory of student Lawrence Cove, who was killed in a road accident in 2001. He had been Apprentice of the Year for the whole South West and was thought of very highly by his employers, Westland Aerospace Structures Ltd.

The **Nicola Locke Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement** is one of the College’s longest standing awards. It is given in memory of Nicola Locke, one of our Entry Level students, who sadly passed away while studying with us.

The **Stephanie Pirongs Personal Achievement Award** is presented in memory of a College lecturer who sadly lost her battle with cancer in 2000 at the age of 41. Her work and commitment to her students never wavered and she set an example to which we all aspire.

The **Jan Howell Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Community** is dedicated to Jan Howell, who worked for the College for 11 years, making significant contributions to our community life. She understood our students and always treated them with respect and sensitivity. She would do her utmost to support College performances and events and was a huge favourite among the students. In Jan’s sad passing, we not only lost a valued colleague, but a dear friend.

Employer of the Year Awards – NEW THIS YEAR

Employer of the Year	Southernprint Ltd
Employer of the Year	The Wessex Group

Representative Awards

IFSEC 2009 Apprentice Skills Challenge Team (Skills for Security)	Harry Booth, Daryn Donovan, Lee German, James Hederly, Shaun Pass, William Rogers, Adam Trowbridge and Christopher Watkins.
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Men's Volleyball Team	James Bell, Daniel Burton, Dion Dzaro, Joshua Galloway, Michael Gibson, Sam Haines, William Harris, Patryk Jadzinski, Callum McKenzie, Tobias Richards, Craig Rutigliano-Fall and Jack Tucker.
Men's Football Team	JJ Flack, Thomas Gallagher, Toby Gallagher, Lee Holt, Daniel House, George Mapletoft, Paul Olawuni, Stuart Witt.
Athletics	Ben Gibb
Netball	Jessica Carrena, Sophie Cooper
Men's Rugby	Sam Bennett, Jake Woolmore
Gymnastics	James Bell, Fiona Wood
Men's Hockey	Michael Gibson, Matt Haskett. Matt Ringrow
Women's Hockey	Kathryn Holmes, Claire Pearce
Women's Rugby	Holly Edmonds, Kristina Harpur, Abi Harrison, Kathryn Holmes, Ellie Sutherland

14-16 Awards – NEW THIS YEAR

Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing 14-19 Student of the Year Award	Gabrielle Nardiello
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Personal Achievement Awards

Western Gazette Outstanding Personal Achievement Award	Karen Barton
Numatic Outstanding Personal Achievement Award	Name Withheld
Hays Most Improved Student Award	Jake Crofts
Battens Student Endeavour Award	Holly Francis
Most Improved Student	Sophie Gaylard
Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Outstanding Personal Achievement Award	Kelly-Marie Gribbin
BAE Systems' Supporting Fellow Students Award	Chris Hayter
Yeovil Town Football Club Outstanding Personal Achievement Award	Daniel Powell
Commitment to Study	Natalie Russell
Commitment to Study	Annie Seabrook
Western Gazette Outstanding Personal Achievement Award	Pamela Symes
Most Improved Student	Adam Westcott
Volunteering and Community Award	Lizzie Cassidy, Emma Cornelius, Becky Evans, Claire Hawkins, Sam Paull, Ayesha Pitman, Emily Symes, Sam Thorne, Hannah Walters

Outstanding Achievement Awards

Outstanding Achievement in Art and Design	Adam Beckey
Buck and Hickman Outstanding Achievement in Engineering ('Golden Spanner')	Kyle Bishop
Outstanding Backstage Work	Gary Brooks
Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing award for Outstanding Achievement in Maths and Science	Katherine Coates
Outstanding Performance (Music, Drama or Dance)	Lewis Convoy
Outstanding Achievement in Construction	Joshua Edmunds
Mulberry's Outstanding Achievement in Hospitality	Lindsay Evans
Outstanding Achievement in Horticulture	Peter Farror
Outstanding Achievement in Music	Joshua Hart
Outstanding Achievement in Childcare	Stephanie Helyar
Buck and Hickman Outstanding Achievement in Engineering ('Golden Spanner')	Elliot Hemmings

Hays Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business, Administration and Finance	Krzysztof Jandy
Outstanding Achievement in Humanities	Jasmine Lossasso
Royal Air Force Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health and Social Care	Lucy McIntosh
Buck and Hickman Outstanding Achievement in Engineering ('Golden Spanner')	Sam Moore
Outstanding Achievement in Travel and Tourism	Leanne Phillips
Buck and Hickman Outstanding Achievement in Engineering ('Golden Spanner')	Kiah Rance
BAE Systems' Award for Outstanding Achievement in IT and Computing	Tom Raybould
Nuffield Health, Fitness and Wellbeing award for Outstanding Achievement in Performing Arts	Fiona Wasiewicz