

PRESS RELEASE



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STUDENT SELECTED AS NATIONAL SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE

Yeovil College student and British Ju-Jitsu champion Craig Zimmerman is just one of ten young people selected as a British Colleges' National Apprentice for 2010/11.

The aim of the British Colleges' National Apprenticeship scheme is to develop and support a vibrant network of skilled and motivated young volunteers. Following intensive training, Craig will start work this autumn, using his experience as a top young sports person to inspire and help others to achieve their sporting potential.

As well as taking part in an exclusive British Colleges' Sport education programme, Craig will contribute to national conferences, work with national sport governing bodies, develop leadership skills and mentor sports volunteers. He will also be involved in an international programme in India next year.

Craig is one of just two apprentices chosen to represent the South West as part of the scheme. The Apprentices were officially presented at a recent national conference attended by former world featherweight boxing champion Barry McGuigan.



Craig (back row, centre) with the 2010-11 British Colleges' Apprentices and guest Barry McGuigan.

Craig (17) of Milborne Port is currently the British Ju-Jitsu champion and due to represent Great Britain at the World Martial Arts Games later this year. He has been involved regularly in community sport and was a Profile Student Ambassador and National Student Ambassador while still at King Arthur's School, Wincanton. Craig was also a Young Ambassador for the Olympic Games.



Craig with former boxing featherweight champion Barry McGuigan

Craig said "I've been involved with a lot of other high profile volunteering schemes, but I'm particularly pleased to be involved with this one. As a British Colleges' National Apprentice, I hope to inspire people and help with sport locally, regionally and nationally. It's so important to make sure that we enthuse everyone to take part in sport to ensure our country's continued success in the world arena. This is also a prime time to get people involved in sport with the Olympics and other big events being in the news. On a personal level, I enjoy all new challenges and think this is a very exciting opportunity to work with a wider range of different groups. I'm really looking forward to working with new people and developing leadership and other skills which will help me when I become a

teacher. I am passionate about sports, health and the community and really excited to be part of this scheme."

Coach and Yeovil College lecturer Kath Purnell said "I can't think of anyone better placed to take up this great opportunity. Not only is Craig an outstanding sportsman, he's shown an unstinting willingness to volunteer for a wide range of community projects, happily sharing his own sporting talent with others to help them achieve. He's a very motivated person and will put 100% into this challenging new role. I have no doubt that he will prove a credit to the College and a very positive role model and grow as a young adult, developing skills which will serve him well in the future."

A panel of judges selected Craig. They said "The standard of applications was astounding. The challenge of the selection panel has been, in simple terms, to judge each application and decide who would benefit the most from being involved in this particular programme. We feel that the ten selected have very different personalities, profiles and needs and, most importantly, have great potential to benefit from involvement in the year-long intensive National Apprenticeship."

Craig will start his apprenticeship in September.

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Notes to Editors

All press enquiries to:

Eileen Furze, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845322 e: eileen.furze@yeovil.ac.uk (26/07/2010 onwards)

Or Janice Smith, Marketing Officer t: 01935 845406 e: janice.smith@yeovil.ac.uk

www.yeovil.ac.uk