



Lancashire Apprentice
Ambassador Network

Newsletter

Issue 4 | November 2017

There has been a lot of activity over the last couple of months with many Ambassadors attending events and Ambassadors being nominated and achieving awards. The Employer ambassador network is growing, so please encourage your employer to get in touch and become an ambassador.

What have our Ambassadors been up to?

Careers event at Blackburn Cathedral

Alisha Clarkson attended Blackburn Cathedral for the Blackburn with Darwen Careers event. She attended on behalf of her employer North Lancs Training Group, where she is undertaking her level 4 apprenticeship in Business Administration. Ten schools attended the event and Alisha talked about her own experience as an apprentice to many students who were interested in Apprenticeships. The event was open to the public so Alisha also had the opportunity to liaise with many different people regarding apprenticeships, some of which are now being helped by NLTG to find an apprenticeship.



Ambassadors attend schools to support the ASK project

Through the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) project we are constantly asked for an apprentice to attend with us to speak to their learners about their journey. This support that ambassadors give is invaluable and welcomed by teachers and parents. Below is just a small example of what our ambassadors have been doing.

Cordelia attended Baines High School where she spoke to 6 classes of year 11 students about her journey as an apprentice. The school were very pleased as they do not get a lot of information regarding apprenticeships. The students found it very informative and helpful for their career choices.

Liam Richmond attended Blackburn Central High school to support in delivering an assembly for the ASK project.

Steph Cook attended a work shop at Mount Carmel High School for the ASK project where she assisted a group of year 11 students to register on Find an Apprenticeship and search for vacancies. Steph also spoke of her apprenticeship journey and answered questions in a question and answer session.

Awards

Sub 36 Awards

Portia Taylor-Black, Frankie Haggerty and Will Holmes were all finalists for the Sub36 Awards on 18th November 2017 at The Winter Gardens in Blackpool. It was a fantastic night and especially more so for Will Holmes who won Apprentice of the Year.



Lancashire is a success at the North West celebration of the National Apprenticeship Awards 2017



The Awards, now in their fourteenth year, are run by the National Apprenticeship Service and recognise excellence in two areas: businesses that grow their own talent with apprentices and apprentices who have made a significant contribution to their workplaces.

Lancashire had a number of winners in the North West - Liverpool City Region, Cumbria and Lancashire Region. Two of our Apprentice Ambassadors, Frankie Haggerty and Portia Taylor-Black were winners with Frankie winning Intermediate Apprentice of the Year and Portia winning Higher or Degree Apprentice of the year. Jonathon Holding from WEC was highly commended for Advanced Apprentice of the year and Sandra Shaw from Castle Supported Living in Clitheroe, was highly commended for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the year.

In the employer categories three of our Employer Ambassadors were highly commended with Crowberry Energy for the Small Employer of the Year, The Printed Cup Company for Medium Employer of the year and WEC and Silentnight for Large Employer of the year.

On being recognised as highly commended, Katy Atkinson (HR Manager of The Printed Cup Company) said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been highly commended in our category; it is such an honour to be recognised as a great employer of apprentices in the North West. We are really proud of our commitment to employing young people through apprenticeships. Investing in apprenticeships should be a priority for businesses looking to develop their internal talent and grow a qualified, flexible workforce."



The other employers within Lancashire that won were:

- The Seafood Pub Company – Large Employer of the Year
- Lancashire Teaching Hospitals – Macro Employer of the Year
- Lifeways Community Care were highly commended for Macro employer of the year.

Chelsea boosts her skills thanks to UCLan Burnley HNC course

Silentnight New Product Developer Chelsea Parker and Lancashire Apprentice Ambassador has received distinction in



her HNC in Furniture Design and Make at UCLan Burnley - and is determined to increase

her skills and knowledge still further. Chelsea (24), from Earby, is a key member of the new product innovation team at Silentnight, one of the country's biggest bed manufacturers. She started her career there as a Themis Apprentice in 2011, manufacturing mattresses, and is focussed on developing her prospects within the Barnoldswick-based business through further degree-level study.

Chelsea, a former West Craven High School student, said: "Design has always been my strong point. I studied art and design at Craven College straight after finishing school.

"I chose the apprenticeship route because it offered me a wide range of opportunities and the potential to shape my own future in the work environment."

She chose to complete her Higher Apprenticeship at UCLan Burnley due to its high pass rates and great teaching facilities and says it was the right decision. "The support I received while studying at UCLan Burnley was great: all my tutors were more than keen to help me when I was struggling. They also took a lot of interest in my future plans and nominated me for awards for the effort I put into my studying."

High-achiever Chelsea has previously been awarded a City and Guilds Medal for Excellence and a Lancashire Business Award for her outstanding work.

Lancashire Apprentice Lilley Deevey talks about her success from her Apprenticeship

Lilley Deevey from Ormskirk, Lancashire was recruited as an apprentice in Human Resources with AstraZeneca after completing her A Levels. Her apprenticeship consisted of a Level 5 Higher Apprenticeship in Human Resources over a two year period. Lilley's main responsibilities



were supporting the operational running of the apprenticeship programme itself, selecting the new apprentices, running their induction programmes in their first week, and advertising the apprenticeship programme through careers fairs and school visits. Lilley soon discovered that she was passionate about early talent and helping people develop and became a board member for the North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Network. Lilley told us "through the network I met inspiring apprentices and employers who helped support me through my apprenticeship, I acted as an ambassador at countless events on behalf of the government such as at the houses of parliament. My apprenticeship gave me incredible opportunities such as being nominated for the East Cheshire Business Awards and helped me to determine my career path going forward. Starting an apprenticeship was the best decision I have ever made."

After her apprenticeship Lilley successfully gained a position at a company in London called Crown Worldwide with the remit of designing, implementing and running an apprenticeship programme for them from scratch alongside supporting their recruitment needs. Lilley uses her own apprenticeship experience to help support more young people start their careers and have the opportunities that she had. Lilley is

STEM Ambassadors

Inspire and engage young people in the world of STEM

As a STEM Ambassador, you can provide the link between employers and the workforce of tomorrow, demonstrating the value of STEM education in life and careers. STEM Ambassadors are volunteers, from 17 to 70 years old, representing a vast range of STEM-related jobs and disciplines across the UK. STEM Ambassadors get involved in a number of activities each year and we have found that those who engage in long-term initiatives can make a real difference, and develop fulfilling relationships with schools and other groups they support.

As a STEM Ambassador, you will join a community of over 30,000 volunteers already raising awareness and aspirations in STEM and helping young people to make informed decisions about their future careers.

You are not required to do anything in addition to what you already undertake as an Apprentice Ambassador. If you are interested in being a STEM Ambassador, please email sam@lancsforum.co.uk

still acting as an apprentice ambassador by co-hosting the National Apprenticeship Awards Regional Final in London and has been asked to co-host the National Finals in January.

“I was lucky enough to be asked to co-host the London and South-East Regional Finals, giving out awards to the 20 regional winners and runners-up, and talking about my own apprenticeship experience. It was a fantastic opportunity to meet some inspirational apprentices and see how apprenticeships are positively impacting businesses across the region. The highlight of my career was during National Apprenticeship Week in March this year. I was invited to attend the Houses of Commons by the Skills Minister Robert Halfon for my work promoting apprenticeships. In front of the 180 apprentices, employers and Government officials who attended I spoke about my time as an apprentice and the role apprenticeships have to play in the future”

Apprentice Champions

Here is the link to the Amazing Apprenticeship website. If you have not already registered as an Apprentice Champion, please do so, you will receive a welcome pack and regular newsletters to keep you up to date with all the current apprenticeship news.

<http://amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeship-champions/>

Employer Ambassadors

A flyer for Employer Ambassadors has now been produced and is being given to interested employers wishing to join the network. There are now 30 employers who have become Ambassadors. Please follow link below to view the flyer.

<http://www.lancsforum.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Employer-Flyer-final.pdf>

Ambassador Networking Event

Invitations have now been sent out for our first networking event for both employer and apprentice ambassadors. This will be held at Preston's College on the 13th December between 1-3pm. There will be a short presentation from The Skills Hub and an update on developments. Refreshments will be served on arrival. Please confirm your attendance by emailing sam@lancsforum.co.uk

Date for Your Diary

National Apprenticeship Week dates confirmed!

Get it in your diary and start to plan for National Apprenticeship Week 2018! Taking place from 5th-9th March.