

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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**JUNE 2024**

NEWSLETTER

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Patron Member



## ***The Quality Professionals Awards: Further Education and Employability***

*The awards ceremony took place on June 26th in Leeds and was a brilliant occasion. The YLP team extends a big congratulations to all the winners, and a special acknowledgment to the Mesma team for their exceptional effort in organizing the event.*

Also, an especially big congratulations to the following winners!

- *Rising Star: FE & Skills* award winner: **Charlie Bowers, Exceed Training**
- *Quality Improvement Leader of the Year* award winner: **Hannah Kirkham, Leeds City Council**
- *Quality Collaboration of the Year* award winner: **York & North Yorkshire Multiply Consortium**



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## **York St John continues to excel in Degree Apprenticeships following North Yorkshire awards**

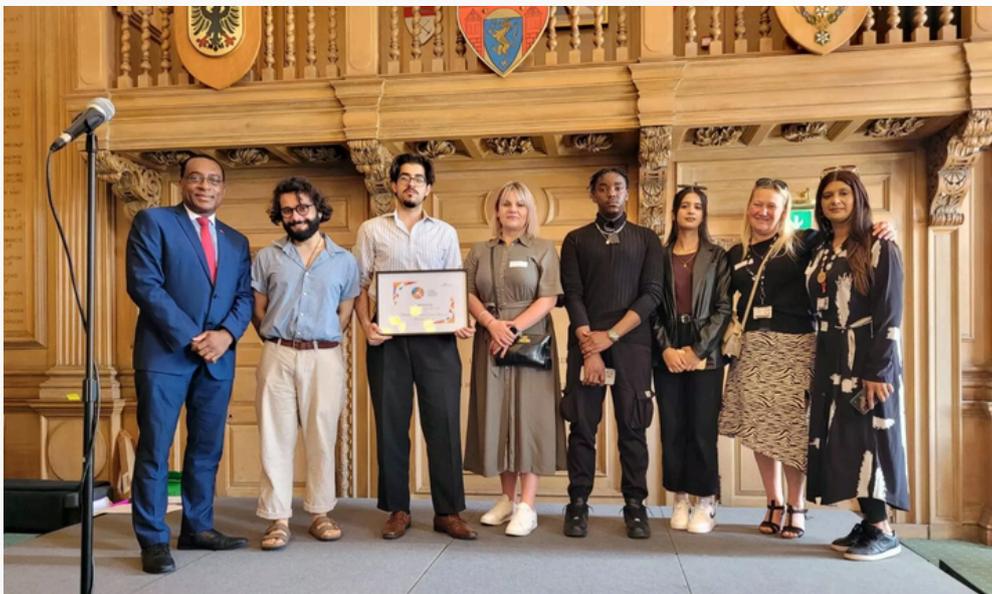
York St John University won two awards at the North Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024, with a number of other commendations for its provision of Degree Apprenticeships. Susie Hoyland, Apprenticeship Delivery and Operations Manager at York St John, won Mentor of the Year, awarded to individuals who have encouraged and inspired apprentices throughout their training programme.

Alexa Harkins, a student on York St John's Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship course, won Health & Public Service Apprentice of the Year, while balancing the responsibilities of academic skills with her duties as working as a response officer with Humberside Police.

Read more: <https://www.yorksja.ac.uk/news/2024/degree-apprenticeship-awards/>

## Bradford College Wins Global Learning Awards

The Bradford College Welcome Café and Adult Skills team were triumphant at this year's Leeds Global Learning Awards after winning in two categories.



Bradford College won the Intercultural Dialogue Award for the ESOL Global Learning project led by staff Monika Worthington and Seima Mahmood. The award celebrates initiatives where connections are made across diverse cultures on an issue relating to global justice and sustainability.

This year, the ESOL Global Learning Project involved four colleges from across the globe, working together on a blended learning project which covers Life Skills topics. Students from Bradford College and Weston College in the UK joined forces with students from Poland and Romania to participate in the multi-cultural initiative.

[Read full article here](#)



## **NowSkills Shines at the BCS IT & Digital Apprenticeship Awards 2024**

Yesterday, NowSkills proudly attended the BCS IT & Digital Apprenticeship Awards 2024, celebrating four of our exceptional apprentices who were finalists across various categories. Congratulations to all the finalists who made it to the shortlist, following nominations and interviews with the judges.

A special mention to Ben Gaskell from Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service, who received the Special Recognition Award for 'Business Analyst Apprentice of the Year', highlighting Ben's outstanding contributions and dedication to his role.

In the accompanying photo, you'll see three of our finalists alongside their tutors: Usman Younas (Tutor, NowSkills), Oscar Kelly (IT Apprentice, Nexus National Security Network), Charlotte Watson (Data Analyst Apprentice, Crowder Consulting), Ben Gaskell (Business Analyst Apprentice, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service), and Gus Reyes (Product Manager, NowSkills).

Congratulations to all involved for their remarkable achievements!





## **Are female business owners being let down?**

Recently the FSB in conjunction with the University of York published a report that they have written regarding female entrepreneurs. It outlines how the region can better support its female business owners. The research carried out, looked at the barriers women face in starting and growing a business in the York and North Yorkshire region. One of the businesses listening to this report was Enterprise Made Simple who are currently delivering the Digital Marketing Skills bootcamp on behalf of York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority. They decided to take action straight away and have altered the delivery style of one of their Skills Bootcamps to fit around school hours. This will make the training much more accessible and inclusive to self employed parents.

Andrea Clare, Director at Enterprise Made Simple said "We know many people decide to go self employed so that they can work flexible hours around their young family. We want local businesses to benefit from learning more about social media and digital marketing so that they can grow and strengthen their business. We are all operating in a digital world and we need to keep our skills up to date."

The program will start in Sept 24 and will take place in Northallerton. For details of all locations and dates available and to register your interest [please click here](#)

Enterprise Made Simple engaged with 233 learners over the last year with an impressive 91% to date having identified new opportunities for their business due to attending Immediate Impact Digital Marketing Skills Bootcamp.



## **NOCN Group Launches Level 5 Diploma in Teaching to Address FE Skills Shortages**

NOCN Group is seeking to address Further Education (FE) skills shortages with the launch of its new Level 5 Diploma in Teaching; a flexible qualification designed by experts to enable learners to excel as teachers in the Further Education and Skills sector. It replaces the Level 5 Diploma in Education qualification, which will be withdrawn as of 31/08/24.

Designed for FE teachers, by FE teachers, the qualification is suitable for learners from various backgrounds and industries. Dr Annie Ostapenko-Denton, NOCN's senior product developer, led on the design and development of the qualification, bringing her in depth knowledge of and experience from 25 years teaching in FE settings.

Read more: <https://www.nocn.org.uk/news/nocn-group-launches-level-5-diploma-in-teaching-to-address-fe-skills-shortages.asp>

## **Apprentices take on National SkillsWeld Qualifiers 2024**

Fabrication & Welding apprentices from Castleford College showed off their skills as part of the SkillsWeld 2024 National Qualifiers.

The competition, which was held on Tuesday 25th June at Castleford College, saw the apprentices complete four separate tests covering the three main types of welding processes - gas tungsten arc welding, stick welding and metal insert gas welding.

This included apprentices Benjamin Mace, Dale Robinson, Harry Walshaw, Joshua Curtis, Korey Wigglesworth, Paisley Mitchell and Oscar Emery, who represented the Yorkshire and Humberside in the competition.





Despite the fierce competition, judges Stephen Haymes, from Engineering Skills Competitions; Clive Slocombe, from Code A Weld; Chris Porter, from Air Products and Yasmin Whale, from Lincoln Engineering; chose their winners – with Oscar Emery taking home the first prize, Kalum Smart placing second and Joshua Curtis third.

Lorraine Cross, Group Executive Director – External Partnerships, Skills and Apprenticeships at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, presented the apprentices with their certificates.

The winners also received a bag of supplies to help them with their learning, which were kindly supplied by the competition sponsors, Air Products and Code A Weld.



**Oscar Emery, Level 3 Fabrication and Welding Apprentice with Yorkshire and Laser Fabrication**, said: *“Taking part in the National Qualifiers was a great experience and challenge for me. I’m extremely grateful to my tutors who have supported me throughout my studies and the competition.”*

Taking place from Monday 14th until Friday 22nd November 2024, the finals will be held at Rochdale Training, a charity that supports learners into employment through Apprenticeships and adult courses.

**Gary Wright, Fabrication and Welding Lecturer at Castleford College**, said: *“This is our fifth year hosting the SkillsWeld national qualifiers and it’s even more special as one of the judges, Yasmin, is a former Fabrication & Welding apprentice of the College. Yasmin was one of our first apprentices to take part in the competition in 2021, so it’s incredibly rewarding to see seven apprentices here today putting their best foot forward. The SkillsWeld competition can open many doors to opportunities within the industry and Yasmin is a shining example of that.”*

Former Fabrication & Welding apprentice, Lucas Moon, placed in the top four for Welding at the WorldSkills UK 2022 competition.

Following his performance, Lucas was selected to train on the squad for Great Britain’s Welding team and which saw him compete in the European World Skills final in Poland.



Held by WorldSkills and Engineering Skills Competitions, SkillsWeld is aimed at trainee and apprentice welders working and/or training in the welding industry at Level 2-3 or a higher level.

Learn more about the SkillsWeld competition, at: [www.worldskillsuk.org/competitions/welding/](http://www.worldskillsuk.org/competitions/welding/)

Find out more about the Engineering department, at: [www.wakefield.ac.uk/study-with-us/subject-areas/engineering](http://www.wakefield.ac.uk/study-with-us/subject-areas/engineering)





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