

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **YEOVIL COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS CELEBRATE APPRENTICES AND EMPLOYERS**

Apprentices and employers from across Somerset, Dorset and the South West have won awards at the annual Yeovil College Apprenticeship Awards, held at Haynes International Motor Museum, Sparkford on Tuesday 7 February 2017.

Thirty-five outstanding apprentices received prizes in a range of categories, highlighting the varied apprenticeships available across Yeovil College. They included Business, Customer Service, Clinical Healthcare, Engineering, Professional Cookery, Hairdressing, Plumbing, Carpentry, and Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair. For the first time, an award was given for the Outstanding Contribution to Yeovil College.

This year's Apprentice of the Year was awarded to Bronwyn Tyson for her significant achievements whilst completing her Electrical & Electronic Engineering Apprenticeship. Bronwyn is a fantastic example of everything an apprentice can achieve with some determination and hard work. She has won several awards this year as judges recognise the importance of her role not only as a great ambassador for Apprenticeships, but also for Engineering; she is a STEM ambassador (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), and has worked with a primary school to ignite a passion for engineering in the next generation.

Emily Fox-Williams secured the Yeovil District Hospital Healthcare Support Services Level 2 Apprentice of the Year title, which she adds to her Highly Commended award in the Rising Star of the Year at the Yeovil District Hospital iCare Awards this month.

During the ceremony, feedback from employers and lecturers was read out to the audience to highlight the pride felt by many about the students' achievements.

Six exceptional employers were also recognised for the key role they play in supporting and nurturing apprentices; **Unwin, Systemagic, Free Range Business and Accountancy Services, Old Mill Accountants and Financial Planners, Salon Fish and Dorset County Council.**

The event was attended by apprentices' friends and family, Principal John Evans, senior College staff and local dignitaries, as well as representatives of many local businesses, and the Chief Executive Officer of Somerset Chamber of Commerce.

John Ponsonby, Managing Director of Leonardo Helicopters Ltd, gave an enthusiastic speech as guest speaker, really hitting home with "An Apprenticeship is just the start of a journey of life-long learning". As Leonardo Helicopters have a team of more than 100 apprentices, he is only too aware of the need to future proof the workforce with a sound partnership and quality employees. It was therefore fitting that he was to award four of his own colleagues with the Outstanding Contribution to Yeovil College award for their hard work in securing the loan of a Super Lynx 300 helicopter to Yeovil College by Leonardo Helicopters Ltd.

The evening highlighted the opportunities that apprenticeships offer, and the rewards apprentices can reap. Mark Bolton, Director of Employer Engagement at Yeovil College, said, "Businesses are starting to think about how they can build their employees from the bottom up and apprenticeships offer a very real and sensible solution to this problem. They enable an employer to recruit a young person into a role who has the right attitude, who wants to learn. We are working with businesses with apprenticeship vacancies that are crying out to be filled."

So, if you or a young person you know is sitting at home wondering what to do with their lives, talk to the Yeovil College Apprenticeship team and have a serious think about how an apprenticeship could work for you.

For more information on Apprenticeship vacancies with Yeovil College, visit <http://www.yeovil.ac.uk/Apprenticeships/Apprenticeships.html>.

For more information about Apprenticeships and training for businesses, please visit [www.yeovil.ac.uk](http://www.yeovil.ac.uk) or call 01935 845392.

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### **Notes to Editors**

All press enquiries to  
Katherine Bolton, Head of Marketing & Communications  
t: (01935) 845322  
e: [Katherine.bolton@yeovil.ac.uk](mailto:Katherine.bolton@yeovil.ac.uk)



[www.yeovil.ac.uk](http://www.yeovil.ac.uk) / [www.ucy.ac.uk](http://www.ucy.ac.uk)



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