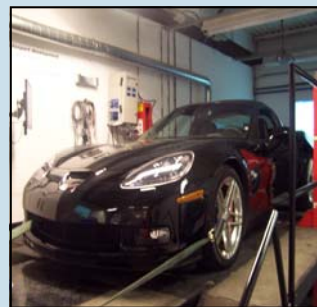


Blackpool College introduce new Aviation Academy at their CoVE Celebration Event



The School of Engineering and Computing at Blackpool and the Fylde College recently celebrated being awarded the title of Centre of Vocational Excellence. (CoVE) Colleges and learning providers are awarded CoVE status when they are considered to be leaders in their field. The college was presented with a plaque by the Learning Skills Council in recognition of this achievement. College Principal Pauline Waterhouse expressed her views on achieving CoVE status; "We are de-

lighted that the high quality education and training we make for students and employers in these occupational areas has been acknowledged in this way by the government." The college then invited guests to look around their Automotive systems Academy, as well as the new Aviation Academy which is host to an array of automotive engineering feats such as a formula one racing car, a rolling road, as well as an aeroplane and jet engine.



Pictured above: the Rolling Road and newly acquired Piper Cherokee

Trainers come out of the classroom to join colleagues on the production line at Jaguar Land Rover Halewood

A unique opportunity has arisen for trainers in the region as a result of a collaboration between National Skills Academy for Manufacturing, Jaguar Land Rover Halewood, and the CoVE. Jaguar Land Rover have allowed ten trainers from the North West into their plant to work on their lines for a two week placement. As a result of this the trainers are able to complete their NVQ Level 2 in Business Improvement Techniques (BIT). Assessors from Preston, and Riverside Colleges have been assessing and observing the trainers working in the plant. Dave Lunge and Alec Robinson from St Helens College are some of the first trainers to go on a this placement in Jaguar Land Rover. Whilst at Jaguar they have been working normal employee shifts, shadowing the group leaders. (Graham Parks and Graham McManours) They have focused on different aspects of BIT such as lean production, quality, proc-

esses, safety, and continuous improvement. This has given the trainers some hands on practical experience in a multinational company as well as allowing them to complete their qualification. "Being on placement at Jaguar has given us a great insight into the company. We were amazed at their continuous improvement strategies and hope to be able to implement what we have learnt into other companies." says Dave Lunge.

Jaguar Land Rover has also found value from the work placements, "Its good to have such knowledgeable people in, who are detached from the processes here because they ask questions and make suggestions that we ourselves may miss," says Stuart Baxter, Training Support Administrator at the plant.

Motoring Ahead: Louise tests out her knowledge at West Cheshire College



Louise Nesbitt, 38, is working towards achieving the IMI in Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair at West Cheshire College where she hopes to achieve her lifetime ambition of becoming a diagnostic engineer. Louise, from Chester, commented: "I started driving at 17 years of age, but it was always a great frustration to me that I didn't know how a car actually worked and so I enquired about completing a course. "I'm really enjoying the course so far because of both the practical and theoretical experience I'm gaining while achieving my qualification.

Lawrence Thomas, Programme Leader in Engineering at West Cheshire College, added: "All our automotive training is delivered at the College's specialist Technology Campus in Capenhurst which has been awarded COVE (Centre of Vocational Excellence) status for our high standards in training.

"Experience of the real world of work is the one attribute that employers look for when they recruit new staff so we ensure that students increase their practical experience and knowledge through a variety of work placements. "We work alongside local garages and high profile vehicle manufacturers such as Vauxhalls to help students gain experience of real work outside the College."

For further information on courses at West Cheshire College, call the College Hotline on: 01244 670 600.

Automotive North West is a partnership of Further Education Colleges and training providers. With support from the Learning and Skills Council we have formed a Centre of Vocational Excellence for automotive manufacturing. The partners are:

- Blackpool and The Fylde College
- Partnership for Learning (Pfl)
- Riverside College, Halton
- St Helens College
- Total People Ltd
- West Cheshire College
- Preston College (Associate Partner)

Contact Us

If you would like any information on our partners, projects, or courses please contact us:

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Halewood HR Automotive Forum

brings benefits to Employers and Business Support Agencies

Employers attending the Halewood HR Automotive Forum have been reaping the benefits of keeping in touch with each other and local business support agencies.

Representatives from automotive sector employers located near Jaguar Land Rover Halewood Operations meet every two months to discuss regional information, internal developments, course opportunities and other human resource matters.

These meetings are providing an opportunity to exchange ideas and intelligence as well as building relationships between employers and support agencies. Each employer keeps colleagues on the Forum up to date on current issues and local business support agencies such as U&Me Recruitment, South Liverpool JET and Partnership for Learning inform employers about opportunities to develop their business. This sharing of information is valued by those attending and their colleagues back at base. Far from being a "talking shop" employers are gaining real benefits from attending the Forum.

Sue Ennis, Workforce Development Adviser at Partnership for Learning, was recently able to suggest a training course to fellow Forum

member Joy Raw, HR Manager at HP Chemie Pelzer. What's more Sue was able to inform Joy that the course was free of charge thanks to funding from the North West Automotive Alliance.

'We were looking for a specialist course and through meeting Sue at the Forum I made just one call to her and had the right course booked within a week' said Joy. 'As a result I've booked two additional courses with the same provider. Having links with the Forum has helped me in my role not just for networking and personal contacts but for sourcing specialist information and saving time - a much needed commodity that we're all short of.'

Current members of the Forum are:

Visteon, Magna Decoma, HP Chemie Pelzer, Getrag Ford, Johnson Controls, Jaguar Land Rover, Manpower, JET South Liverpool U&e Recruitment, Eclipse Executive and Partnership for Learning

Automotive sector related organisations wishing to join the Halewood HR Automotive Forum can contact Jan Parry on 0151 448 7864.

BIT transforms Aegis Engineering thanks to Riverside College

Aegis Engineering based in Warrington is the main supplier of Personal Projective Equipment and specialist operations in the UK. The company was formed in 1990 to provide a personal and quality service to Police and Special Forces Units in the UK and around the world. They have recently put eleven employees through Business Improvement Techniques training (BIT) with Riverside College. They chose employees from across the organisation so that BIT could be implemented into every aspect of their organisation. The aim of BIT is to minimize waste, increase company profitability, and drive employee development. Kathryn Foy, Human Resource Officer at Aegis said "BIT training has completely transformed the organisation, we still have a way to go, but the improvements that we have seen so far have been outstanding." Aegis say they felt they had been well supported by Riverside College throughout the training which they described as hard work and demanding at times but well worth it. It has motivated the employees to implement new procedures and tighten up the processes. Aegis now want to put more of their employees through the training to further the impact and support continuous improvement.

Storage room before BIT



Storage room after BIT

