

Halewood students begin their HE journey with Riverside



Ten students from Jaguar Land Rover, Magna Interiors and Exteriors and Visteon, based in Halewood, have begun a Foundation Degree in Manufacturing Technology at Partnership for Learning. The Foundation Degree is being delivered by Riverside College, Halton and is validated by Staffordshire

University.

The programme of study includes skills development in Mathematics, Mechanical Electrical Science, Manufacturing Processes and Management. It also features a series of work related projects, the theme of which the students will have to agree with a mentor in their own organisation and the university.

Jim Norman, lecturer at Riverside, says, 'These projects form the central focus of the degree programme. They will have a direct impact on the employers and have the poten-

tial to generate real business benefits.'

Robbie Williams, an Advanced Product Quality Planning Engineer at Magna, has been with the company for two years. 'I joined this programme because I can see it will broaden my skill base and develop the skill set I already have,' he says.

Any employers wanting to join the next cohort of learners starting in September 2008 can contact Riverside College.

Automotive North West secures £750k package of funding to support employers

Automotive North West is delighted to have won a £750k package of funding for employers in Merseyside. The project, part of the LSC ESF Skillworks programme, will subsidise training for small and medium sized employers in the automotive manufacturing and retail automotive sectors.

The project, led by St Helens College, will also include Partnership for Learning, Riv-

erside College, West Cheshire College and Preston College as delivery partners. Employers will be able to receive a 60% subsidy on Level 2 and 3 NVQs and a similar subsidy on specially designed training programmes to meet their needs.

To source support for training under this project employers should contact Margaret Fairclough at St Helens on 01744 623882.

Digby, Lord Jones of Birmingham, meets Automotive North West partners on visit to Halewood



On a recent visit to Halewood, Digby Lord Jones of Birmingham Kt, Minister for Trade and Investment, visited Pfl and discussed skills issues with members of the Automotive North West Management Board. Pictured above are Ed O'Brien (Chief Executive of Pfl), Phil Round (Jaguar Land Rover Training and Development Manager) and Pat Bacon (Principal of St Helens College.)

Vauxhall's industrial robot finds new home at West Cheshire

West Cheshire College has taken delivery of its first industrial robot thanks to a generous donation from Vauxhall Motors at Ellesmere Port.

The College's specialist Technology Campus, based in Capenhurst, is now home to a S320i PVC spraying robot.

The robot, can be used for a variety of engineering tasks from automotives to glass manufactur-

ing. The equipment will help improve the College's offering to Vauxhalls and other local employees.

John Allison, Maintenance Supervisor at Vauxhalls, said: "We've got quite a few apprentices from West Cheshire College, so having apprentices trained on our own equipment before they start with us will give them a head start."

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)

Date for your diary

The Jaguar Land Rover Education Centre, based at PfL, is holding an event in partnership with Liverpool Compact for Engineering Employers to give information on the new Specialist Diploma In Engineering on Thursday 28th November. If you are an employer and wish to attend please contact Marion Thomas on 0151 448 3230

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An LSC-ESF funded Regional BI-T Alliance Project is working with 30 trainers from 18 providers in the region. Here are two examples of how the project is having a positive impact on employers and training providers

The employer's story



Adelaide Engineering UK, based in Heywood, supply's large CNC machine capacity to the engineering and machine tool industry. It provides a comprehensive range of CNC machinery and CNC milling tools. They utilise a skilled workforce to provide a cost effective, high quality service to meet customer demand, including the use of a coded welder to fabricate. It also has a 24 hour response unit for company break-downs, as well as the flexibility to offer a 24 service to customers. Early in 2007 the management team at Adelaide recognised the importance of training their staff in Business improvement Techniques to help minimise waste, increase company profitability and drive employee development. Through relations with the North West Aerospace Alliance and Automotive North West and utilising ESF funding it progressed its lean journey in April 2007. Only part way down the route to the NVQ level 2 qualification here are some of the comments from Adelaide so far:

- Capacity planning boards are helping drive performance, we are now even more confident to produce to plan.
- The 5S audits are giving clear definition in many areas making any waste stream immediately visible.
- New S.O.P's are available for everyone to follow, visual management systems are starting to make re-ordering challenges a thing of the past!

The trainer's story



Alan Chettoe is a BIT trainer and assessor working for Salford & Trafford Engineering Group Training Association (STEGTA). He is currently delivering BIT Level 2 NVQs at Adelaide Engineering in Heywood. Allan has taken advantage of LSC-ESF funding through Automotive North West to train towards National Skills Academy for Manufacturing trainer standards. The training he received was delivered by Industry Forum and, although very intensive, it has provided him with additional knowledge and skills to deliver BIT across a broad spectrum of sectors. 'STEGTA has been training apprentices and adults in engineering for over 40 years, and have just received outstanding grades from Ofsted. BIT was a natural addition to the portfolio and is being actively promoted by us as we see the benefit of continuous improvement to the employers we work with' says Allan 'The Business Improvement Techniques NVQ is seen as a driver for positive change in an organisation and, more importantly, leaves a sustainable legacy. Seeing employees energised as they work towards shared goals is very rewarding for me as a trainer.'