

Welcome

Although funding for the CoVE will finish at the end of July, the work of our colleges and training providers will, of course, continue. Diploma students, apprentices and foundation degree students will be learning in state-of-the-art facilities with industry standard equipment. Employees and their companies will continue to challenge colleges and providers to deliver more specialist and relevant training solutions. Trainers and assessors who joined our programme to deliver Business Improvement Technique NVQs to the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing (NSAM) standards will continue to pass on their expertise and will be updating their skills to keep up with industry standards. Partners, stakeholders and employers will continue to meet to deliver effective solutions to the skills and recruitment needs of the future. The Automotive North West website will still be available to view in the medium term with details of its activities and links to the partners and stakeholders which have helped its development. The benefits of networking opportunities and joint projects will continue with PFL's new appointment as the National Forum of Engineering Centres (NFEC) contact point for the region and, of course, the partners continuing links with NSAM. Finally, thanks to everyone connected to the CoVE who has helped it achieve its aim in responding to employers needs in the North West. Keep up the good work!

Catherine West-McGrath
CoVE Manager



New NFEC Point of Contact in the NW

A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up between the National Forum of Engineering Centres (NFEC) and Partnership for Learning. NFEC members, learning providers and engineering companies with a keen interest in engineering and technological education will now have an NFEC contact point at Partnership for Learning. This new partnership will help to develop a regional presence in the North West ensuring NFEC can respond to their members needs more efficiently.

Sparks fly between West Cheshire College and Witter Towbar

Witter Towbar based in Deeside are the UK's largest manufacturers of towbar and cycle carrier systems. The challenge set by Gary Nuttall, Senior Manufacturing Engineer was to up skill over 50 employees in welding techniques. West Cheshire College advised Witter to put their employees forward for EAL Level 2 NVQ in Fabrication and Welding qualification. The training was delivered onsite within the employees own environment.



'The College has been extremely supportive in delivering the training to meet our specific business needs and employees have gained a sense of achievement from learning new skills on the job. Not only does the qualification provide evidence of an employee's ability to do a particular job, but it should also prove fruitful in helping to improve their career development and promotion chances for the future.'

**Gary Nuttall, Witter's Senior
Manufacturing Engineer**

The Benefits :

- **Improved Staff knowledge of welding techniques**
- **Increased employee morale**
- **Increased overall productivity**

Automotive Northwest Celebrates Partnership Achievements



Automotive North West celebrated its achievements of the last three years in style with a dinner at the Holland Hall Hotel in Up Holland, Skelmersdale.

Engineering companies from all over the North West attended, as well as partners and representatives from a variety of learning organisations. Labour MP for Crosby, Claire Curtis-Thomas joined the occasion and made an inspirational speech that touched on the importance of the automotive and manufacturing industry for the North West economy. The evening was a huge success with all the partners being represented. The CoVE partners would like to thank those who have contributed to its success over the last three years.

Jaguar Land Rover Group Leaders complete first CIM Qualification with Riverside College

Eric Woods from Jaguar Land Rover Education and Training Department has developed a nine day bespoke course to provide production Group Leaders with the core skills and competencies required for their role. The course has recently been delivered to thirteen delegates from Jaguar Land Rover. Riverside College were able to map and align the course work to meet the criteria and requirements of the Chartered Management Institute. This has enabled the delegates to gain a Level 2 certificate in Team Leading through the Chartered Management Institute- a qualification that Jaguar Land Rover have never achieved before. The next step for the delegates is to undertake workplace observations and compile a portfolio of evidence to complete the process towards gaining a NVQ Level 2 in Team Leading. Having completed the course Phil Cooke, Skills Development Manager at the College says "this project has been both challenging and rewarding in meeting the demands of a major employer in the area, it demonstrates our commitment to engagement and business solutions and further strengthens our partnership with Jaguar Land Rover."

Countdown to the new Engineering Diploma at St Helens College



Working with St Aelreds Catholic Technical College, Rainford Technical High School, Carmel College, and Jaguar Land Rover Halewood, St Helens College are preparing for the launch of the new Engineering Diploma this September. The diploma described as 'the biggest change to compulsory education in the last 20 years' is an employer focused qualification that uses a learn by doing approach to better prepare learners for the world of employment. The unique aspect of this qualification is the involvement of the employers both in the design of the content and their role in assisting with work related learning visits. The qualification will be offered to small groups at two levels, with fifteen students on the higher Diploma (Level 2) and fifteen students on the Advanced Diploma (Level 3.)

Automotive Northwest 'Meets the Buyers' at PFL

The North West Automotive Alliance held an 'International Meet the Buyers' event at Partnership for Learning this July. The event gave SMEs a chance to talk directly to buyers from across the world. Previous events like this have been a great way of making new contacts and generating new business within the manufacturing sectors. At a similar event in 2004 over £7,700,000 worth of business was reportedly made. Automotive North West was given the opportunity of occupying a stand at the event, in prime position to talk with companies about their training needs. The stand, represented by employees from PFL, St Helens College and Automotive North West attracted many companies to come and find out more about their training requirements.

Semta talk funding at NFEC regional Summer Conference



The National Forum of Engineering Centres (NFEC) Regional Conference was held last month at Partnership for Learning in Liverpool. Learning Providers and companies such as Getrag, Novartis and Jaguar Land Rover attended to receive up-dates on new developments in the engineering sector. Delegates from across the North West attended to hear news from Susan Butters from the Sector Skills Council for

Science Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies (SEMTA) talk about 'The SEMTA Compact.'

The Compact is a £65 million pounds partnership with the government to deliver learning and skills training for employees in the science, engineering and manufacturing sectors. It means companies within the SEMTA footprint will have access to Train to Gain funding which will better suit their skill needs. The next NFEC Regional Conference will be held on the 27th of October at Leyland Trucks.

If you would like to attend visit www.nfec.org.uk for more information.

Jaguar Land Rovers Halewood Launches a Two Week Lean Learning Academy Programme

The Lean Learning Academy at Jaguar Land Rover has designed a condensed two week programme aimed at all companies who believe in continuous improvement. The Lean Learning Academy (LLA) is aimed at teaching managers and team leaders about lean processes and supports continuous improvement in the workplace. The LLA, which was previously a three week course has adapted to better meet the needs of companies who find it difficult to take staff out of the workshop for long periods of time. The academy has attracted over 700 candidates on an international level since it opened in 2002 and the programme has received excellent feedback. Bob Martin from Stadco Ltd had this to say; "I have had 22 years experience in the automotive sector and have attended many courses. The LLA is by far the most inspiring and enlightening course I have ever been on." For more information about the LLA contact Phil Round on proud@jaguarlandrover.com.

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, and Preston College (Associate Partner).

Contact

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