

## February 2010, Yorkshire and the Humber unionlearn News

### Learning at Work Day 2010 – Closing Date 05 March; Get Your Bids in Now!

Don't miss the opportunity to hold a Learning at Work Day event at your workplace this year; if you haven't already done so follow this link and download an application form and guidance now. [www.unionlearn.org.uk/YHLaWD](http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/YHLaWD)

And don't forget that if you are having any problems with writing your bid or planning your event the unionlearn team is there to help you – don't be shy, get in touch and we will support you through the application process. 0113 242 9296, [unionlearnandh@tuc.org.uk](mailto:unionlearnandh@tuc.org.uk)

### Road to Recovery Community Event: 24 March, Castleford Community Learning Centre, Castleford

This pilot event, on coping with redundancy and the recession, is being held at **Castleford Community Learning Centre, York Street, Castleford WF10 1RB** from 10am - 3pm. It will act as a gateway, offering individuals advice and information on skills and learning, employability and employment rights. It is intended to be a one stop shop where individuals can get support in order to deal with changes in their circumstances brought about by the recession. We plan to have CV and IT taster sessions, information on health matters, informal learning and job searching & volunteering. The hope is that following evaluation of this event, further events will be held either at the same venue or potentially looking at other venues best placed to support the recovery. The event is being supported by Skills: Recession & Recovery Project, Unite and Nextsteps.

For more information contact Noella Melad, Skills: Recession and Recovery Development worker; [nmellad@tuc.org.uk](mailto:nmellad@tuc.org.uk), 0113 2001077

### East Riding College Student's Fantastic Achievement

A student from the Environment Agency has recently scored an amazing 40 out of 40 in his Skills for Life Numeracy test. The student signed up for an ICT course and as part of this, undertook an initial assessment which revealed that he would benefit from Skills for Life learning. As a result he completed level 1 and 2 in both literacy and numeracy and is still continuing with the ICT course.

### Advocating for Apprentices – Conference 16 April – Congress Centre, London

The TUC's Apprenticeship Project will be launching its apprenticeships toolkit for reps at the conference, and there will be a chance to hear from some newly-created Union Apprenticeship Advocates, whose role is to promote schemes to unions and employers.

Apprenticeships are Union Business, and with a big government push to increase the number of apprenticeships available more and more employers will be offering apprenticeship places. Unions have a clear role in making sure that every apprentice: is paid fairly and treated fairly has the time they need to do their theoretical learning joins a union. This conference will bring together union reps and officers who have decades of experience in negotiating on and recruiting apprentices with those who may be welcoming apprentices into their workplace for the first time. [www.tuc.org.uk/advocating](http://www.tuc.org.uk/advocating)

## **Informal Adult Learning - Join the Revolution**

Unionlearn is working jointly with BIS and other key stakeholders to introduce a plan for bringing informal adult learning to the workplace. Two of unionlearn's key milestones are to:

- Identify at least 50 trade union learning centres which are open for wider community use
- Identify good practice case studies of trade union/ULRs engaging workers back into learning through Informal Adult Learning.

Examples of informal adult learning that trade unions and their ULRs are currently involved in include:

- Employee Development Schemes and Collective Learning Fund
- Workplace libraries and book groups. Including the Six Book Challenge and Quick Reads
- Courses for personal development/interest run by colleges/adult education centres/WEA
- Taster sessions attracting new learners
- Visits/activities with museums/galleries/libraries/theatre
- Hobby/interest clubs/foreign languages  
...and there are lots more.

How can you help?

- If you have or are aware of any trade union learning centres open to wider community use or
- Have good practice case studies around Informal Adult Learning

Please send details to Joe Fearnough, [jfearnough@tuc.org.uk](mailto:jfearnough@tuc.org.uk), or call 0151 243 2571

## **Right to Request Training**

The new right to request training will be in operation from 6 April 2010. The TUC has long campaigned for workers to have statutory rights relating to training and enthusiastically support the introduction of this right. Guidance for workers on how the right will work is available from the government's direct gov website on the following link: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/>

### **Unionlearn will be launching a project in April 2010 to**

- promote awareness, understanding and confidence in exercising the right amongst workers

- provide resources for union learning representatives to support members exercising the right; and
- develop the trade union organising and negotiating agenda with regard to the right

**Further information can be obtained from Richard Blakeley, Policy Officer for Learning and Skills ([rblakeley@tuc.org.uk](mailto:rblakeley@tuc.org.uk), 020 7467 1252)**