



## Building on success

Local authority building teams celebrated a night of young stars as their efforts, in training young people in much needed construction skills, were recognised by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Annual Building Apprentice of the Year Awards 2008.

Commenting on the awards, Paul O'Brien, APSE Chief Executive said *"We hear so much negativity about young people and yet here tonight we have seen a level of commitment and enthusiasm that is second to none."*

Mr O'Brien presented awards to:-

- Heidi Spivey, an apprentice joiner, of Kirklees Council who was named Female Building Skills Apprentice of the Year, kindly sponsored by the Construction Youth Trust
- Mitchel Bargas, an apprentice maintenance operative, of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, who was named Male Building Skills Apprentice of the Year, kindly sponsored by UCATT
- Rae Crown, an apprentice plumber, of Nottingham City Homes, was named Female Mechanical and Electrical Apprentice of the Year, kindly sponsored by the Construction Youth Trust
- David Hunter, an apprentice plumber of Falkirk Council, was named Male Mechanical and Electrical Apprentice of the year kindly sponsored by JARK.

Welcoming the commitment of local councils in promoting apprenticeships, and female apprenticeships in particular, Chrissie McCarthy of the Construction Youth Trust and one of the award sponsors added *"We are reaching a critical point in addressing the need to bring more women into the construction sector. Less than 1% of frontline construction workers are female. These APSE awards are an excellent opportunity to showcase the work that local councils are doing to break down gender barriers"*

Echoing Ms McCarthy's sentiments Dennis Doody of UCATT said *"The long term health of the construction industry is dependent upon us developing talented young people to become the experienced workers of tomorrow"*.

Julia Gardener of JARK said *"Training and skills is the critical ingredient in delivering any service and I'm delighted at the high calibre of young people coming forward to share their success as apprentices"*.

**Ends**

**The full list of all finalists is as follows:**

**Female Building Skills**

Katie Redden, Joiner, Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Heidi Spivey, Joiner, Kirklees Council  
Rachel Ramsden. Painter, North East Homes Leeds  
Leanne Nicholls, Carpenter, City and County of Swansea

**Female mechanical and electrical**

Jennifer Taylor, Gas Engineer Bolton at Home  
Rae Crown ,Plumber, Nottingham City Homes  
Hayley Allen Electrician, Newcastle City Council  
Heather Newton Electrical Engineer, 2010 Rotherham

**Male Building Skills**

Mitchel Bargas, Maintenance Operative, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Gary Brown, Joiner, South Lanarkshire Council  
Paul Cook, Joiner, East Riding of Yorkshire  
Lee Hamson, Maintenance operative, Leicester Council

**Male Mechanical and electrical**

Craig Nicholson, Heating Engineer, Gateshead Council  
Douglas Ferguson, Gas Technician, Fife Council  
David Hunter, Plumber, Falkirk Council  
Stuart McCarthy, Plumber, Edinburgh City Council

**Notes to editors**

APSE is a not for profit local government organisation that works with over 300 local councils throughout the UK promoting excellence in local government front line services.

The APSE apprentice of the year awards were introduced to promote the work of local council's in training and skills in the housing maintenance and building sectors and reflect the commitment of local government to delivering more female workers into the construction sector.

An APSE publication written with the construction youth trust is available to download [here](#).

Jpeg images of all finalists are available on request for press purposes. Please email Amanda Steele on [asteele@apse.org.uk](mailto:asteele@apse.org.uk)

To arrange for interview or further details about the awards please contact Mo Baines on [mbaines@apse.org.uk](mailto:mbaines@apse.org.uk) or telephone 0161 7721810 or mobile 07971 843515