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ECAPR05

LOCAL APPRENTICE WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

An apprentice from Chesterfield College has scooped one of the East Midlands region's most prestigious awards – the Frank Elliott Trophy.

The trophy, which this year has been awarded to Ben Widdowson from Newbold in Chesterfield, is presented by the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) every year to an apprentice in the region that has demonstrated extremely high levels of skill and dedication in their training.

The award was set up in memory of the late Frank Elliott, who was ECA Regional Manager from 1981 to 1996.

Nominations are from colleges across the East Midlands for apprentices on the advanced apprenticeship scheme whose employers are members of one of the East Midlands Employers Training Forums.

Ben, aged twenty, was awarded his prize at the Thistle Hotel in Nottingham. As well as the trophy itself, Ben also received a plaque marking his achievements together with a cheque for £200.

Having completed two years at Chesterfield College, Ben is due to complete his NVQ3 programme in electrical installation in June 2005.

Ben's tutor, Denzil Bertie, believes that the award was well deserved. He commented: "Ben has worked extremely hard to achieve this award. He has shown a strong interest and commitment to electrical work, both in his college studies and in the workplace."

As well as being top of the class in his studies, Ben is also a valued member of the team at High Peak and Dales NHS Primary Care Trust Estates Department where he currently works.

Speaking about the award, Ben commented: “ I am delighted to have received such a prestigious award from the Electrical Contractors’ Association and certainly aim to continue working to the high standards that I have set myself.”

“Both members of staff at the college and my work colleagues at High Peak and Dales have offered me incredible support and experience.”

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Note to Editors:

The ECA represents the interests of 2,200 member companies involved in electrical installation work. Collectively, the member companies have an annual turnover of more than £4.5 billion, employ over 30,000 operatives and support 8,000 apprentices in craft training. The role of the ECA is to provide a focus for the electrical industry in terms of safety, training, qualification, technological development and industry performance.

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