

Adult Learners' Week Awards

15 - 21 May 2010

Adult Learners' Week Awards 2010 - Nominations

“My learning has empowered me and given me the belief that my future is in my hands.” (Frank Harris, 2009 Adult Learners' Week Award winner)



Adult Learners' Week 2009 - National Ceremony

co-ordinated by:



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What we are looking for

We are looking for stories of learners that are truly inspirational, illustrate the life-transforming power of learning as an adult and can inspire others to learn as well. There are four main award categories: Individuals, Groups, Families and Opening Doors to adult learning. The awards are a once in a lifetime achievement for learners, and it is their learning journey that we want to celebrate.

The strongest stories are the ones where people have achieved beyond their expectations and have made that extra effort to reach their goal, often with life-transforming results.

Being an Adult Learners' Week Award winner

Winning an Adult Learners' Week Award is recognition of a remarkable learning journey. Adult Learners' Week Award Winners can be powerful advocates and inspirational role models and they generate media interest in their story.

All learners nominated will receive a certificate of achievement. The winners will receive a learning voucher, valued between £200 and £1,500, and will be presented with their award in a ceremony during Adult Learners' Week (15-21 May 2010).

How to nominate

Making a nomination is simple and they can be submitted on paper or online. If you know someone that inspires you, visit www.alw.org.uk/nominate where you can:

- Order nomination forms;
- Download PDFs and Word versions of the forms; or
- Nominate online

Nominations close at **5pm on 29 January 2010** and entries submitted by 15 December 2009 will be entered for a FREE prize draw to win one of five £20 shopping vouchers, in time for Christmas.

Writing a strong nomination

A strong and well written nomination increases the chances of your nominee winning an award. It makes it easier to follow the learning journey, and so identify inspirational learning stories in the selection process.

There are some important points to be considered when completing a nomination form:

- Read the Guidance Notes carefully and make sure you understand the types of awards available and the criteria for judging.
- Read the form carefully, and organise your thoughts for each question to ensure you give sufficient detail for each without repetition.

- Talk to your nominee, ask them questions and gather as much information as possible to compile your nomination.
- Write each answer in a concise, factual style. Do not worry about using flowery language; make your nomination clear and easy to read.
- Remember that the judges do not know your nominee and cannot make any assumptions. Strong evidence of a significant learning journey must be presented for each question, with inspirational examples, to ensure your nomination stands out.
 - What makes their learning journey so inspirational?
 - When talking about challenges faced, give examples of how these were overcome, and why this led to an inspirational learning journey.
 - How has their life been transformed as a result of their learning journey?
 - How has learning as an adult benefited them – compared to when they were younger?
 - Have their achievements had an impact on the lives of others around them and why?
- Where necessary, provide your learner with support in completing their question on the nomination form, so that the judges can hear more from them.
- Nominees can be considered for more than one category if they are relevant. This includes a set of special awards that nominees' supported by our prestigious Award sponsors:
 - The European Social Fund (ESF)
 - BBC
 - Foundation Degree Forward (**fdf**)
 - The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
 - Booktrust
 - National Open College Network (NOCN)

Check Part 4 of the form for further details and provide relevant information in your answers where appropriate.

And finally

- Your nominee needs to complete their statement (Part 3 of the form) otherwise the nomination cannot be considered for the selection process.
- You need to sign the form and make sure that your nominee signs it as well.
- NIACE must receive your nomination form by **5 pm on 29 January 2010**.