

Press release

28 June 2007

Learning the trade and winning awards – all in a days work

Two of Hackney Homes brightest apprentices were winners at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) national Housing and Construction Apprentice Awards 2007.

Ryan Rebeiro won APSE Male Apprentice of the Year 2007 in the Building Skills category and Callie Duncan was runner-up in the APSE Female Apprentice of the Year.

Both Ryan and Callie have been on the Hackney Homes Programme for three years, working four days a week in their chosen field and attending college one day a week on a NVQ Level 3 course.

Ryan specialises in painting and decorating and has been refreshing the look of some of Hackney's well known estates. Recommended for the scheme by his careers officer, Ryan has not looked back since and his excellent work has seen him carrying out top-notch decorating work in residents' homes.

Commenting on the award, Ryan said "This is really good, it has been a fantastic experience and this puts me in good stead to gain a permanent job with Hackney Homes"

Hackney resident Callie was attracted to the Hackney Homes Apprentice Scheme after a conversation with an operative who was carrying work on her family member's flat.

Specialising in carpentry, Callie has completed internal jobs such as hanging doors and laying skirting with minimum supervision as well as picking up a number of skills including locksmith experience.

Not only was Callie runner up, her enthusiasm and commitment to her trade saw her being selected as an Ambassador for the Construction Youth Trust promoting females into the construction industry.

Commenting on this, Callie said "This is the best thing that has happened to me. I really love it and I am looking forward to assisting other women interested in carpentry"

Hackney Homes were also presented with two Training Excellence Awards in both the Male and Female categories in recognition of our commitment to training and support of employment for local young people.

Our mission is to deliver excellent, responsive housing services with decent homes and estates. To help residents lead healthy lives in safe and sustainable communities.

Hackney Homes Chief Executive Steve Tucker said: “Well done to Ryan and Callie for this fantastic achievement. Their hard work, commitment and determination throughout their apprenticeship has been recognised and they should be very proud of their achievements.

Winning national awards in competitions with the very best craft apprentices in the UK is also a testimony to the quality of our training programme and to the staff and operatives in Hackney Homes who train these outstandingly talented people.”

Notes to Editors

- Hackney Homes currently has 27 apprentices employed on our training scheme.
- In recognition of their achievements, 3 were selected to enter for the APSE Housing and Construction Apprentice of the Year 2007 in the following categories: Female Apprentice of the Year, Male Apprentice of the Year (Building Skills) and Male Apprentice of the Year (Electrical & Mechanical).
- The APSE Apprentice Awards have been running successfully for 10 years throughout the UK. The aim of the awards, which are open to every authority in the UK, is not only to give recognition to future tradespersons, but also to the councils themselves who continue to invest in and provide first class training / employment initiatives in bona-fide Modern Apprenticeship schemes.

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