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Stars of the Future moves to Vertikal Days 2014

C&a

CPA

The 2014 Stars of the Future awards will be presented at Vertikal Days on May 14th

There is a strategic need to promote the construction equipment industry to young adults and their parents. The Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) 'Stars of the Future' scheme is looking to help provide a lead to this end by recognising the achievements of young people training to become plant mechanics through its 'Stars of the Future' programme. In addition to the obvious benefits, the Public Relations value to the industry as a whole is equally significant.

The inaugural 'Stars of the Future' programme ran during the 2012/13 academic year and attracted 489 entries from a dozen colleges throughout the UK. The first awards ceremony took place during the Plantworx show at Stoneleigh Park in May and attracted hundreds of interested parties. Richard Noble OBE - a land speed record holder and the pioneer of the current Bloodhound project - presented the awards and said, "There is a serious problem finding engineers in the UK. The majority that we do find are already in their 40s to 60s. We need new blood and 'Stars of the Future' is a good start towards this."

Haydn Steele, CPA's training manager, adds: "It was amazing to see so much support for the 'Stars of the Future' we received, it encapsulated the ethos of the industry, employers, trainers and the next generation of engineers. We have set a very high benchmark but we intend to make the scheme even bigger and better next year."

The CPA is now busy planning for the 2014 'Stars of the Future' award event, which will be held at the Vertikal Days show, taking place at Haydock Park, Merseyside on the 14th and 15th of May 2014. The presentation will take place on the first day of the event - Wednesday May 14th.

The entry criteria for 'Stars of the Future' 2014 remains the same, it is open to plant mechanic apprentices on courses at Level 2 and Level 3. The two national winners will receive tool vouchers for a substantial amount, while the 20



Poster for 'Stars of the Future' 2014.

regional winners will each receive vouchers amounts to be confirmed.

To date 10 colleges have already committed to the 2014 competition and, in addition to the Finning Academy and the National Construction College, they include Askham Bryan, Bridgend, Coleg Lysfasi, Myerscough college, North Glasgow, Reaseheath, Wiltshire and Stafford.

Stafford College construction plant lecturer, Eddie Peake said: "The 'Stars of the Future' event this year was fantastic and the students who attended found the speech from Sir Richard Noble very inspirational. Seeing their peers receive awards also gave them something to aim for and they found that aspect really motivational. We are looking forward to participating in the 2014 event."

Why is 'Stars of the Future' and other apprentice schemes vital to our industry?

A recent survey published by PwC



Some of the 2013 regional winners

has highlighted just how important 'Stars of the Future' and other apprentice schemes are. PwC economists have predicted that there could be as many as 100,000 jobs on the cards for engineering industry sectors by 2020! Jobs comprise of 50,000 new UK manufacturing jobs, 40,000 jobs in transport and 17,400 new jobs in construction!

Another published report from CIPD (Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development) suggests that there will be 13.5 million job vacancies in the UK over the next 10 years, but only seven million school and college leavers to take them up.

Of particular concern to the construction sector are leavers with professional level grades, to take up critical posts ranging from field service engineers to manufacturing machine operators and design engineers. Nick Ground, president of the Construction Equipment Association (CEA) and managing director of GKD Technik said: "The construction equipment sector is as advanced as aerospace and offers engineers of all disciplines the opportunity to be involved in the creation of advanced vehicles. What surprises me is the high number of chief executives in our sectors that were once apprentices."

Surely that is an attractive incentive to future engineers?"

To find out more about Stars of the Future call Haydn Steele, CPA training manager, Tel: 020 7796 3366 or visit www.cpa.uk.net/stars. Don't forget to put 14th and 15th May in your diary.



James Scott national winner Level 3



Nathan Wadiun national winner Level 2