

THE SFEDI NEWSLETTER OF RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

WELCOME TO ACCORD

Welcome to the first issue of Accord, the SFEDI newsletter of Recognising Excellence Ltd.

SFEDI is the national standards body for a variety of areas of activity that include business advisers, business mentors and social enterprise advisers. Recognising Excellence is currently the only SFEDI Centre of Excellence for Business Support that can assess against these three standards in both the South West and Wales.

SFEDI have re-launched and have formed a strategic partnership with the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM), enabling Centres of Excellence to offer jointly endorsed accreditation.

OLIVIA KHADKA



Olivia Khadka

"The SFEDI process has increased my confidence and provides me with credibility with partner organisations and clients."

Olivia Khadka, Creative Industries Business Adviser, Creative Skills.

Olivia joined Creative Skills in January 2007 and delivers high quality sector specific training, one to one professional development planning and business support for the creative industries.

Olivia commented, "I have been extremely pleased with the whole SFEDI experience. I was really pleased with how the process works in terms of really encouraging development through a process which is reflective. There is an emphasis on the importance of developing people as being an important part of the role as well as the business and sector knowledge needed. I feel that this is a really important aspect of advising".

Olivia achieved SFEDI accreditation at the first attempt. Assessor, Sue Bladon, reported: "Olivia is a very capable Creative Skills Advisor. She is conscientious, confident and eager to learn and develop in her role, having already made considerable progress with professional development. Her knowledge of the sector, local contacts and developments is a considerable strength, along with her interest in and knowledge of, marketing issues, as she realises how important this aspect is for business success 'no market, no business'. Alongside this, she has a good grounding in business counselling and business planning, gained from her own professional development activities which serve her well.

WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT

The Welsh Assembly Government is committed to maintaining an HRD Practitioner Register, and applying a Performance Management process, the purpose of which is to provide and assure quality services to organisations through a network of appropriately experienced, skilled and accredited Practitioners.

The three roles:

- HRD Advisor
- Investors in People Assessor
- Practitioner Developer

The aim of the HRD Advisor is to provide employers with specialist HRD advice, guidance and information.

The aim of an Investors in People Assessor is to deliver an effective Investors in People Assessment service.

The aim of a Practitioner Developer is to manage the development of an allocated group of HRD Advisors and Investors in People Assessors.

The process for registering Practitioners is based on a SFEDI competency framework that underpins the initial and on-going development of all Practitioners. As a result 103 WAG practitioners successfully completed the SFEDI Accreditation this year.

for more information on SFEDI telephone Olive on 02920 020908 olive.corner@recognisingexcellence.co.uk or Jo on 01452 413641 jo.cook@recognisingexcellence.co.uk

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

Raising Performance Standards

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

NEW SFEDI/ILM ENDORSED PROGRAMMES

Recognising Excellence has received approval to deliver SFEDI's four new ILM Endorsed Programmes.

The new endorsed programmes are based on the SFEDI business support national standards and additional areas of specialism:

- Information Officer
- Enterprise Trainers
- Skills Brokers
- Business Link Brokers

Each of the endorsed programmes can provide progressions to the new SFEDI/ILM Certificate and Diploma in Business Support.

Details of all programmes can be found on our website. www.recognisingexcellence.co.uk

SFEDI ACCREDITED

Now that you're SFEDI Accredited you can access your own page in the SFEDI Directory and update it with description, areas of expertise and contact details. Once logged in you'll also have access to logo downloads to use on your stationery and marketing materials. To access your listing please visit the SFEDI Directory, sign-in and head to your page.

BECOME A SFEDI AMBASSADOR

SFEDI is creating an army of a minimum of 5000 entrepreneur friendly ambassadors by the end of 2009. This network will then be in place to counterbalance whatever the government and the policies government come up with.

The SFEDI Enterprise Ambassadors network will be signposting best practice in people, products and programmes so that all those starting, or running, a micro enterprise will know where they can get the best help and 'know how' in order to succeed.

It's about the UK enterprise support community doing it for ourselves in the hope that government will eventually recognise that much of its love affair and funding support to bigger businesses is folly.

SFEDI WORKSHOPS

As part of our marketing campaign and the need to raise the awareness of the SFEDI accreditation we are delivering 2 SFEDI Workshops. Further specialised courses have been arranged in partnership with Awbery Management that will fill any gaps identified following these workshops.

WORKSHOP 1 R U READY 2 B SFEDI

A comprehensive, one-day course to develop an understanding of SFEDI and the advantages of the accreditation.

The course content includes:

- The background to SFEDI
- What SFEDI can offer you
- An introduction to the application process

A better bet is supporting the growing UK enterprise community. It's about 'survive and thrive' in a career as a small business owner - already 1 in 7 of the adult workforce is running their own business and it will be more.

SFEDI and all its ambassadors believe that everyone who is taking, or has taken, the risk of setting up their own enterprise should have the very best chance of success.

As a SFEDI Accredited Advisor or Mentor you may now be eligible to sign up.

You will need to agree to the SFEDI Commitment Pledge and provide evidence of helping small businesses.

For further information, please visit www.sfediambassadors.co.uk

WORKSHOP 2 READY SFEDI GO!

A one-day course taking you through the SFEDI process, outlining each unit in detail.

COST:

Each one-day course, including lunch and refreshments, is £175 + VAT per delegate.

DISCOUNT:

A £100 discount will be given from the SFEDI accreditation for candidates that have attended both workshops

Delegates need to complete the application form on our website www.recognisingexcellence.co.uk



WHO'S WHO?

OLIVE CORNER



I joined Recognising Excellence in June 2008. Following Brian Edwards's retirement in December I am now Head of SFEDI Operations and cover Wales and SW.

Having completed a Business/ Finance degree and a post-graduate teacher training at Cardiff University, I taught at a number of schools and colleges in Wales. Whilst teaching I was involved in writing Entrepreneurship Education materials for KS3, KS4 and KS5 and also advising on their distribution and implementation and in trialling the materials across a number of schools.

During my time as a teacher I undertook part-time study for an MBA. After completing the MBA I felt it was time to change my career path and joined 'Menter a Busnes' (Business and Enterprise Company) as Development Manager for South West and East Wales where my main duties was assisting and supporting pre start-up businesses.

Having had experience of working with people setting up their own business and being involved with the mainstream business providers, it gave me a taste of wanting to set up my own business. As a result, in 2005 we bought a Kennels and Cattery business. In March 2008 our business was awarded 'Bilingual Business of the Year', by 'Cwlwm Business' (Business Connect). (www.tygwyn-kennels.co.uk)

JO COOK



I joined Recognising Excellence in February 2008 as a Senior Administrator: responsible for the smooth operation and development of all aspects of the various Lexcel and SFEDI administrative processes, including: liaising with clients, SFEDI, The Law Society, Partners and Assessors. I work mostly from home which means I enjoy a great work/life balance, enabling me to fit work around my three young children!

When my daughter started school 6 years ago I wanted to be able to manage the school run but still have a fulfilling job. Taking into account my previous experience (as Office Manager and Executive Admin Officer), with knowledge and experience of ecological, leisure, IT and financial environments - I became a virtual PA. My first client was The Llandaff Diocesan Ministry Department (Church in Wales), and until recently I also worked for Kudos (a Bristol-based training, development and consultancy business) as well as Recognising Excellence.

Outside of work I enjoy watching my partner, who's a musician, perform at gigs. Cooking, listening to music and reading is how I like to relax and I'm also trying to get fit and have recently started 'power walking' with a friend - to compensate for my enjoyment of cooking and eating out!