

London Education Partnership Awards 2011

Information and Guidance

Introduction

These notes are intended to help you make a successful award application. The quickest way to find out what makes an award-winning partnership is by looking at our winners brochures on the website www.lepawards.org.uk

The London Education Partnership Awards

The awards are designed to recognise the impact of partnerships within London on higher education progression and achievement.

There are eight awards for 2011:

1. Building bridges: cross-organisational partnership and impact
2. Supporting journeys: excellent professional practice in student support
3. Inspiring journeys: excellent professional practice in curriculum support for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics)
4. Creative journeys: excellent professional practice in curriculum support for arts and design
5. Driving achievement forward: achieving successful outcomes post-16
6. Reaching out: third/voluntary sector organisation of the year
7. Investing in the future: business employer of the year
8. Starting the journey: raising aspirations in primary school pupils

Applications should be presented in case study format, bearing in mind the specific criteria for the award category outlined in the application brochure, which can be downloaded from the website. The better the information you provide, the better your chance of winning. Applications should be a maximum of 2,000 words.

Application form checklist

1. The challenge – what did you want to do and why?

- How did you identify the need?
- Why was it important?
- How did you identify the groups most in need?
- Who are the target group and what are you hoping that they will achieve?
- What aspect of higher education progression and achievement were you focusing on?
- Does the project support achievement in other areas?

2. Meeting the challenge – what did you do?

- What innovative strategies did you adopt?
- What was the process in developing and delivering the project?
- Who was involved and why?
- Did you involve young people, parents, community groups, other educational establishments or businesses in the consultation process?
- What challenges or barriers did you face and how did you overcome them?
- How have you developed the skills and confidence of your target group?

3. Impact – what difference has this made?

- How has this made a difference to:
 - o teaching and learning?
 - young people and/or adults involved?
 - areas of school/college/organisational life?
 - the local community?
- How has this improved:
 - o higher education progression and achievement?
 - outcomes for the target group involved?
 - attendance, behaviour, attitude?
 - individual and school/college/organisation success?
- What has been the impact on partnerships?
- How do you know the intervention has been successful and what evidence do you have? Remember to show evidence of how a difference has been made, this could include individual, group and whole school/college/ organisation data, quotes and individual examples
- Why did this project work and how do you know?
 - What specifically made it effective?
 - Who involved made the difference?
 - Did you have Senior Leadership Team support?
 - Did you get support from other areas or organisations?

4. Sustainability – how have you made sure this work can keep going over time?

- What strategies have you put in place to build on the success of this work?
- How are you planning to embed this work further?
- How will you ensure that partners and stakeholders remain involved?
- What steps are needed to improve this further?

Award categories

Building bridges: cross-organisational partnership and impact

Sponsor: KPMG

The award is for well-established strategic partnerships between schools and/or colleges and higher education institutions and other organisations that may extend across a borough or an area of London.

Partnerships must be able to demonstrate that they are making a real and sustained difference to higher education progression for London young people and/or adults. They should include effective cross-organisational curriculum partnerships and involve joint programme planning and delivery.

We very much encourage applications from 14-19 partnerships involving schools, colleges and higher education institutions.

Supporting journeys: excellent professional practice in student support

Sponsor: The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust

The award is for partnerships involving schools, colleges, higher education institutions or other bodies.

The partnership is expected to give evidence of joint curriculum planning and delivery plus any shared teaching and learning or professional development relationships. The partnership should also indicate how it is encouraging, enthusing and supporting pupils/students to consider higher education progression.

Inspiring journeys: excellent professional practice in curriculum support for STEM

Sponsor: The Wellcome Trust

The award is for partnerships involving schools, colleges, higher education institutions or other bodies that focus on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The partnership is expected to give evidence of joint curriculum planning and delivery in the subject area(s), shared teaching and learning or professional development relationships. The partnership should also indicate how it is encouraging and supporting pupils/students to consider higher education progression in the subject area(s).

The curriculum areas covered include:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- All types of engineering
- Design and technology
- Mathematics
- Physics

or combinations of these subject areas.

Creative journeys: excellent professional practice in curriculum support for arts and design

Sponsor: University of the Arts London

The award is for partnerships involving schools, colleges or other bodies that focus on arts, design and communication or combinations of these subject areas.

The partnership is expected to give evidence of joint curriculum planning and delivery, shared teaching and learning or professional development relationships. The partnership should also indicate how it is encouraging, enthusing and supporting pupils/students to consider higher education progression in the subject area(s).

The curriculum areas covered include:

- Art
- Art and design
- Communications and media studies
- Design and technology
- Fashion
- Film and video
- Graphics
- Performing arts
- Photography
- Textiles

or combinations of these subject areas.

Please note that entries directly from higher education institutions will not be accepted for this category.

Driving achievement forward: achieving successful outcomes post-16

Sponsor: London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

The award is for schools and/or colleges that ensure that young people who have not achieved a Level 2 qualification at the end of Key Stage 4 are given a second chance in further education to achieve the qualifications they need for employment or higher education.

Many students stay on at 16 but drop out at 17. There are also young people who progress from Level 2 qualification at 17 but cannot cope on a Level 3 course. This award recognises schools and colleges that appreciate the importance and challenge of providing effective courses for 16 year olds that enable them to progress successfully to Level 3 courses and beyond.

Young people on these courses often arrive with low levels of confidence and commitment to learning. We encourage applications from organisations that provide learning that:

- is personalised
- makes use of a wide range of additional resources through partnerships
- provides planned support at Level 3

Reaching out: third/voluntary sector organisation of the year

Sponsor: The National Institute for Adult Continuing Education (NIACE)

The award is for third sector and voluntary/community organisations that are making a real difference to higher education progression for particular groups of learners and, through partnership, are successfully changing the approaches and practices of mainstream organisations.

The organisation may be working with groups under-represented in higher education, for example women, ethnic minority groups, working class people, learners with disabilities or refugees. Alternatively, it may be offering learning activities and experiences through partnership, which strengthen young people and adults' chances of going into higher education. This may include working with businesses to ensure that young people or adults can access internships or work experience that enable them to identify what they want to do in the future, for example, going to university or taking up higher education opportunities through employment. Whatever experiences are offered, they may be happening during the school or college day or after school, at weekends or during school holidays.

Applications are warmly invited from all third or voluntary sector organisations involved in such work, including mother tongue and Saturday schools.

Organisations or those nominating them are expected to demonstrate how they are achieving their purpose through partnership; how their structures and ways of working are contributing to the partnership and making a difference to the learners, and how their work is changing attitudes, behaviours and practices.

Investing in the future: business employer of the year

Sponsor: London First

The award is for businesses that invest significant resources in a sustained way through partnerships to support higher education progression across London. The award is for partnerships involving schools and/or further education and/or higher education and/or other bodies working in higher education progression.

Businesses or those nominating them are expected to demonstrate why and how the business(es) are making such investments, to describe the form they take, for example, mentoring, skills training, conferences, internships, top team experiences and how they are making a difference.

Starting the journey: raising aspirations in primary school pupils

Sponsor: Museum of London

This new award is for partnerships, which can include any organisation from the education, community or business sector that work with primary schools to broaden children's horizons and raise awareness of their options for the future. Recognition will be given to partnerships that are working particularly to draw in the families, and teachers, of the children involved.

Partnerships should demonstrate how their innovative projects are challenging the low aspirations and stereotypical thinking in primary aged children in order to maximise their potential.

Making an application and general advice

We recognise the time and effort it takes to write an award application and have aimed to make the process as simple and straightforward as possible.

Applications should be no more than 2,000 words in total. An application form can be found on the LEPA website www.lepawards.org.uk.

It is a good idea to get someone else to read your application before you send it. We expect applications to have been approved by the head of the organisation or an appropriate senior manager.

Please ensure that you complete the contact details section, so that we can get in touch with you easily.

All applications must be completed online by 5pm on Friday 25 March 2011.

If you have any queries, please contact lepawards@ioe.ac.uk.