

PRESS RELEASE

Monday 22nd September

'Most Enterprising Student for the South of England' title awarded to undergraduate working at Powerchex

A Business Management undergraduate, who completed a Shell Step work placement in the Docklands pre-employment screening company, Powerchex, has been awarded the title of 'Most Enterprising Student for the South of England.'

The Shell Step Regional Finals, held at Shell's headquarters in Waterloo, on Wednesday 17th September 2008, saw winning student Andrew McIntosh, from the University of York, pick up a trophy acknowledging his success in generating substantial promotional savings and bringing in new customers for Powerchex. Alexandra Kelly, Director at Powerchex Ltd, said:-

"We are very proud of what Andrew has achieved. In the eight weeks that he worked at Powerchex, he generated revenues of over £170K and potential revenues of a further £150K. He achieved these results working quickly and independently and in doing so he gained the respect of the whole team. I don't believe that a seasoned professional could have surpassed what Andrew achieved in such a short period of time and for that, he truly deserves this award. Powerchex has been a supporter of the Shell Step programme for the past four years and on every single occasion our students have amazed us with their creativity, enthusiasm and commitment to the company."

This is the second year running that a Shell Step work placement at Powerchex, based in Wapping, has been awarded. Andrew was delighted by his award and attributes his success to the support he received from Powerchex and Knowledge Dock, at the University East London, who delivered the local Shell Step undergraduate placement programme. Andrew said:-

"I was gobsmacked when my name was announced! I couldn't believe it, because the other candidates were so strong, so it's a real honour to win. The eight weeks work experience and this award is great for my CV. I've learnt so much, not just from working at Powerchex, but also from doing the presentations and creating business reports - it's all been great for my professional development. I now have a much better understanding of how businesses operate, and I found it particularly beneficial working in a small organisation,

PRESS RELEASE

because I had the opportunity to take on lots of different tasks and gain a greater range of skills. I am grateful to the Managing Director at Powerchex for developing me and having faith in my work, and the team at Knowledge Dock were also fantastic in supporting me all the way.”

Ellie Precious, Student Enterprise Co-Coordinator at Knowledge Dock, who organised 34 student placements this summer, was particularly proud of the calibre of candidates this year, and by Andrew’s success. She said:-

“We’ve seen some really talented students come through the Shell Step scheme this year. Witnessing what the students achieve in just eight weeks is always surprising. The Shell Step Programme provides a win-win situation for both companies and students and we thoroughly enjoy working on the programme each summer here at Knowledge Dock. ”

Knowledge Dock has a history of success, having also won the prestigious award of ‘Best New Shell Step Agency in 2003’.

Further Information:

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Notes to editors:

Knowledge Dock

As the business facing arm of UEL, Knowledge Dock provides enterprising services for businesses, public and voluntary sector organisations, as well as to students and entrepreneurs.

Our mission is to support the development of enterprise and innovation by providing access to the facilities, knowledge and expertise of the University, its academic staff and its students.

PRESS RELEASE

The University of East London

UEL is now a global learning community, with 20,000 students from over 120 countries world-wide. Our vision is to achieve recognition, both nationally and internationally, as a successful and inclusive regional university proud of our diversity, committed to new modes of learning which focus on students and enhance their employability, and renowned for our contribution to social, cultural and economic development, especially through our research and scholarship. We have a strong track-record in widening participation and working with industry.

www.uel.ac.uk

The Shell Step programme began in 1986 as a Shell UK Community Investment Initiative, and swiftly became a nation-wide programme. It is funded by the Small Business Service (SBS) and Shell UK. As a Business Link service, Shell Step is now available through every Business Link operator. For further information or to discuss project ideas, please contact: Gareth Lewis on 0208 223 3321, g.lewis@uel.ac.uk

Shell Step is one of four areas supported by Shell's Social Investment:

- Since the 1950s Shell has been supporting the teaching of science in primary schools. The Shell Education Service aims to help teachers not only teach science but inspire children as to the endless possibilities of science. Its success speaks for itself - every year the 50,000 children's places are quickly filled.
- Shell Livewire helps young entrepreneurs succeed by providing them with free information and advice. Over 100,000 people across the UK now access online information from Livewire each year and over 20,000 'Start a business' toolkits are sent out.
- Shell Springboard is a new programme that builds on Shell's forty year investment in the 'Shell Better Britain Campaign'. Shell hope it will be a catalyst for innovative small businesses that have grasped the commercial opportunity presented by climate change. Shell research shows that around 90% of small businesses accept climate change is being caused by the rise in CO2 emissions but only 19% see it as an opportunity. Springboard wants to change that mindset by recognising and rewarding small companies with great business ideas for tackling climate change.