

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

### **Student awarded national honour for east London pre-employment screening company Powerchex**

A student who generated revenues of over £170,000 for an east London company, has won 'Judges' Commendation Award' at the Shell Step UK Final, which took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October at The Congress Centre, Great Russel Street London, from 6.00pm.

Andrew McIntosh, a Business Management undergraduate from the University of York, was introduced to the Wapping-based pre-employment screening company Powerchex, via Knowledge Dock, the University of East London's enterprise development service.

He generated substantial promotional savings for the company and brought in two new customers through the media exposure he achieved. He is also Knowledge Dock's most successful work placement student, since they started the Shell Step scheme in 2003. Ellie Precious, Student Enterprise Co-ordinator, at Knowledge Dock said:-

"We are so proud of what Andrew has achieved. Hundreds of students participate in Shell Step every year, so to have one of our students become a Shell Step UK finalist and then receive an Award on the night, is amazing! This is the highest accolade any of our Shell Step students have ever achieved, so we are absolutely delighted and look forward to placing more outstanding students next year."



*Ellie Precious, Andrew McIntosh, Alexandra Kelly, Gareth Lewis*

The annual Shell Step UK Final was the conclusion to a series of Shell Awards events throughout the UK, which gave recognition to a selection of talented students who performed exceptionally well during their summer Shell Step work placement.

Andrew was awarded 'Runner Up' at the Local Finals and 'Most Enterprising Student for the South of England' at the Regional Finals, so to go through to the UK Finals and be presented 'Judges' Commendation Award' by Director of Shell UK and the Shadow Minister for Lifelong Learning, Further Education and Higher Education, was a great honour and testament to his hard work and business initiative. Andrew said:-

"I was stunned to receive a third award from Shell! All the candidates were exceptionally strong, so I feel extremely complimented and delighted that my achievement stood out and my commitment to the company was valued. My work placement has taught me a great deal about how businesses operate, so I thank Powerchex Director Alexandra Kelly and the rest of the team for their support and faith in me. I've also gained some essential skills in presenting, so I now feel really confident and I'm looking forward to developing my career."

Shell Step is a unique placement scheme - not only does it match students and businesses, it also ensures students receive high quality advice and coaching before and during their placements to improve their skills. That's why the participating companies report a significant impact on their bottom lines.

## Ends

### **Further Information**

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### **Notes to editors**

Knowledge Dock

As the business facing arm of UEL, Knowledge Dock provides enterprise services for businesses, public and voluntary sector organisations, as well as to students and entrepreneurs. Knowledge Dock's mission is to support the development of enterprise and innovation by providing access to the facilities, knowledge and expertise of the University of East London, its academic staff and its students.

University of East London

The University of East London (UEL) is a global learning community, with over 20,000 students from 120 countries world-wide. We are a successful and inclusive 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](http://www.uel.ac.uk)

Shell Step

Shell Step is a direct response to the challenge that faces tens of thousands of UK graduates when they move from the world of study into employment. The programme gives hundreds of students relevant and meaningful experience of the world of work each year and is the UK's leading creator of tailored placements for students in small and medium-sized businesses. 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.