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PRESS RELEASE

SKILLSACTIVE COMMEMORATE 100,000TH NVQ MILESTONE

SkillsActive celebrated the 100,000th National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) across the active leisure and learning sector with a special awards ceremony at Leisure Industry Week in Birmingham.

NVQs have been very successful since their launch 15 years ago. The sector has seen sustained growth in take up and achievement of NVQs, covering individuals at entry level through to senior managers at level 4. The 100,000th certificate will be awarded in spectator safety at the SkillsActive patron's dinner in November.

SkillsActive is celebrating this milestone and Elaine Clowes, SkillsActive chair, awarded candidates across other areas of the sector on Tuesday 25 September at Leisure Industry Week. Jamie Hooper received an award for completing his NVQ in sporting excellence specialising in golf awarded through Edexcel, Matthew Fisher received an award for completing his NVQ in instructing physical activity and exercise awarded through Central YMCA Qualifications and Jules Housecroft received an award for completing her sports development/leisure management NVQ through City & Guilds. All three awardees are progressing onto successful careers and have bright futures ahead of them.

NVQs capture the national occupational standards that employers design and develop and signify that the individual is competent in their job role and have proved this competence over time in the work place. Elaine Clowes, SkillsActive chair said:

“Latest take up figures indicate even faster growth than we have seen previously. NVQs take time and commitment to achieve. They combine assessment of both knowledge and practical application and confirm that someone can do the job to the standard expected by employers.”

Matthew Fisher re-trained around 18 months ago to become a fitness instructor after a stint in the marines, semi-professional football and factory work. He's now a successful personal trainer and part time fitness tutor at West Nottinghamshire College. Matthew said:

“I enjoyed completing the NVQ so much that I'm considering taking a degree in sports science or sports performance coaching in the near future. Doing the NVQ ignited my passion to want to teach others and my ambition is to learn more about

health and fitness at university whilst also expanding my client base and helping others get fit.”

SkillsActive work closely with the Awarding Bodies to develop and deliver the qualifications.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. If you require further profiles of the awardees, interviews or comments please contact Jessica Benson.
2. Elaine Clowes is chief executive of Children’s Link.
3. SkillsActive is the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the sport and fitness, playwork, the outdoors and caravan industries – known as the active leisure and learning sector.
4. SSCs are UK-wide, employer-led organisations that aim to tackle the skills and productivity needs of their sector. Twenty five SSCs make up the Skills for Business Network. The Sector Skills Development Agency (SSDA) underpins the network and is responsible for funding, supporting and monitoring the SSCs.
5. SkillsActive’s Sector Skills Agreement defines the sector’s skills needs and forms an agreement between employers, government and funding partners to shape the workforce for the next ten years. Priorities identified as a result of the SSA process are: improve the quality and range of services; improve recruitment and retention; professionalise and upskill the existing workforce; match supply to demand; redirect funding for training; increase sector investment in our people.
6. SkillsActive is *Shaping Skills for the Future*, through...
 - PEOPLE...
...ensuring all people in the sector are appropriately trained and qualified.
 - PRODUCTIVITY...
...ensuring better performance through the professional development of the sector.
 - PROVISION...
...ensuring the sector has accessible, relevant and funded training across the UK.
 - PROMOTION...
...ensuring the contributions of the sector are recognised at a governmental level.
7. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com