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*****NEWS/PRESS RELEASE*****

WORKING IN FITNESS SURVEY RESULTS PUBLISHED

The results of the third Working in Fitness Survey, the largest annual survey of people working in the health and fitness sector, have just been published.

The annual Working in Fitness Survey is a confidential survey conducted online by SkillsActive in partnership with the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs), and in association with the business intelligence specialists Leisure-net Solutions. This year there were over 1,200 responses, presenting a robust picture of the views and opinions of the fitness industry through the eyes of those working in it – instructors, trainers and teachers.

While this year saw an increase in the average amount of time spent on training, one in five fitness professionals do not feel that they have adequate training to do their job. Smaller organisations were found to be superior in providing for the training needs of their staff, contrary to the belief that smaller companies generally don't have the financial or human resources to train staff properly.

Overall job and employer satisfaction in the industry remains high with nine out of ten employees expecting to remain in the industry for the next three years, with low pay the factor most likely to cause workers to leave the industry. While there is some dissatisfaction about remuneration for those outside managerial positions, the average annual salary has increased by almost 10% to £17,200 and over half the respondents received a pay increase in the past year.

Muriel Bankhead, Head of Research at SkillsActive said;

“It is encouraging that the Fitness Industry continues to maintain a positive image with its employees and remains a good employer. Training is strong in the sector and is integral to increasing productivity, however, there is a persistent fifth of respondents who feel they have not received adequate training for their job. This and other areas of improvement in remuneration packages and career development, including getting more women into senior management, are required to strengthen their current position. “

The full report can be accessed here:

<http://www.skillsactive.com/resources/research/Working-in-Fitness-2006.pdf>

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. For more information about SkillsActive, please visit our website @ www.skillsactive.com