



## FCT learner wins National Apprentice of the Year

4<sup>th</sup> July 2011

We are very pleased to announce that a learner on FCT's Work Based Learning Programme has won the National Apprentice of the Year Award. Eighteen year old Shauni O'Neill is employed by Transport for London, who along with the City and Guilds of London Institute have a 10 year strategic partnership with Four Counties Training.

Having already been named London Apprentice of the Year in May, Shauni went on to scoop the top prize at last weeks National Apprenticeship Awards at a ceremony in London that recognises apprentices throughout the country.

Shauni began her Rail Transport Operation Apprenticeship with FCT in October 2009 and has completed every stage of her apprenticeship in a positive and professional manner, flying through assessments for the roles of customer service assistant, station assistant multi-functional and station supervisor in the last 18 months, as well as signalling qualifications. Throughout this time Shauni's dedicated reviewer has been Maya Solanki.



This learning programme is due to finish in mid July when Shauni will take up her new role as a Customer Service Assistant at Hendon Central Tube station. Alongside this award Shauni has become a role model and ambassador for both TfL and the apprenticeship scheme, featuring on London Underground's recruitment website and attending events to promote Apprenticeships.

Shauni said: "I'm ecstatic to have received this award and to have been given the opportunity by London Underground to become an apprentice, learn new skills and get the experience that matters when it comes to getting a full time job. I would like to thank everyone at London Underground who has invested their time in helping me to get where I am today."

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "It is absolutely fantastic to see that London apprentices such as Shauni are forging a national reputation for themselves by scooping top awards like these".

Skills minister John Hayes said "I'm delighted to congratulate Shauni for her hard work and outstanding achievement, and London Underground for their sound investment in the skills of their people. Apprenticeships are great news for ambitious young Londoners – and with every £1 of government money invested generating a return of £40, they are great for businesses and the economy too".

FCT is no stranger to such success; in 2008 Michelle Coombs, another FCT learner, was named Rail Apprentice of the Year for Westinghouse Rail Services at the Go Skills Passenger Transport Awards and Tubelines was named Large Employer of the Year in 2007 and 2009 at the National Apprenticeship Awards for their programme run in partnership with FCT .

FCT is recognised by Ofsted as a Grade 1 'outstanding' provider and has been running apprenticeship programmes for over twelve years.