



**National
Mentoring
Consortium**

‘Mentoring Gives You The Edge To Succeed’

Speakers Announce At

The NMC 13th Annual Award Ceremony

Prominent speakers such as Diane Abbott MP, Manny Lewis, Chief Executive of the London Development Agency and Mike Brace OBE, stressed the importance that mentoring can have on career development and the confidence to ‘push the envelope’. Speakers presented awards to outstanding mentors and undergraduate students at the 2007 National Mentoring Consortium (NMC) Awards Ceremony held at Canary Wharf on Wednesday 9 May.



Hundreds of students and professionals from around the UK, all participants in the NMC’s pioneering mentoring programmes for undergraduates from Black and Ethnic Minorities and students with disabilities, gathered at Lehman Brothers European Headquarters to share their experience and recognise excellence in mentoring.

Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, said: “In today’s increasingly competitive labour market, mentoring gives job candidates a vital edge, as well as a clear sense of achievement and self belief. I am delighted to be here to support the work of the NMC.”

Manny Lewis, Chief Executive of the London Development Agency, said: “We are in the business of creating more jobs and employability prospects for Londoners of all backgrounds. Mentoring helps us develop our skills and overcome barriers to success.”

Mike Brace, Chair of the British Paralympic Association, lost his eyesight in a firework accident at the age of 10, first represented Great Britain in cross-country skiing at three World Championships, six Paralympic Games and two European Championships. He was elected Chairperson of the British Paralympic Association in 2001 and was Head of Delegation at the 2004 Paralympic games in Athens.

He told the audience: “Mentoring has played a major part in my life, and I owe a huge debt of gratitude to the people who were there when needed to give me the confidence and self belief to fulfil my dreams and goals.



Award-winners included Sally Tomlinson of Barclays PLC (Mentor of the Year), Michael Adu-Sarkodie (Disability Undergraduate Scheme Mentee of the Year, UEL), Shonian Newell, University of Westminster (Herbert Smith Law Award) Brighton

University (University of the Year), and The Royal Air Force and MENCAP (Employers of the Year).

The experiences of those who benefited from the mentoring relationship really emphasises the effect that the schemes have had on their outlook to future prospects. They impressed the audience with their passion and humour.

Debra Chidakwa, a mentee on the Disability Undergraduate Scheme and undergraduate BA Honours Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of East London described how mentoring gave her back confidence she lacked and her mentor helped her how to “speak with confidence”. She endeavoured to “use these tools to reach the world with pride and confidence” proving that “disability does not mean incapability”.

Riccardo Lambertini (22) a final year student of International Business at the University of East London (UEL), was awarded Ethnic Minority Undergraduate Student mentee of the year. His mentor Hilda Ozymy of Shell International encouraged Riccardo to take part in meetings at Shell, where he impressed senior executives. He is now completing his degree and planning to work as an intern in commodities trading over the summer.

Riccardo said: “I wanted to get some experience and exposure in the business world and I was really lucky to have a fantastic mentor in Hilda. She has helped me improve my skills across the board and particularly communicating in a business environment. I’m really happy and honoured to receive this award.”

For more thoughts from mentees and mentors [click here](#)

Professor Martin Everett, Vice-Chancellor of the University of East London, said: “Mentoring is a classic win-win situation – helping both the mentor and mentee, the sustained success of this programme shows that with the right education, people can succeed regardless of their background.”

Joe Greenland, Director of the National Mentoring Consortium, said: “Mentoring is effective in enhancing graduate career prospects and promoting diversity in the workplace. We want to help students focus on their future careers and prepare for a smooth and successful entry into the world of work.

“Great strides have already been made to encourage UK employers to recruit more talent from Britain’s ethnic minority and disabled communities. We are delighted with the support we have received from so many employers and universities, and look forward to the continuing success of this partnership.”

