



## NMC Award Ceremony 2005

This award ceremony is attended by mentors and mentees along with employer and university representatives, the NMC award ceremony is held around May each year in central London.

Keynote speakers present awards for the various projects such as Mentor of the Year and Mentee of the Year.

The 2007 Award Ceremony is being hosted by Lehman Brothers in Canary Wharf on May 8th.

Previous events have been very successful, see below

### **East London student named 'Mentee of the Year' at National Mentoring Awards**

Roger Shannon, a 34 year old mature student reading for his BA (Hons) Business Studies degree at the University of East London, has been named Mentee of the Year at the 11th Annual Award Ceremony of the National Mentoring Consortium (NMC).



More than 180 guests including senior figures from industry, the civil service and voluntary sector, as well as students from universities across the UK, attended the day-long celebration, held at the offices of Herbert Smith Solicitors in the City of London on Tuesday 3rd May.

The event celebrates the continuing success of the NMC's Ethnic Minority Undergraduate Scheme, set up by the NMC to provide support, encouragement and experience to black and

ethnic minority students. It also marks the first successful year of the Disability Undergraduate Scheme, providing mentoring support for students with disabilities. Presenting the awards, Mark Wood, Chief Executive of ITN, said: "We are very keen supporters of this programme, one that is clearly going from strength to strength. The scheme is a fantastic way of helping students develop and achieve their full potential."

Keynote speaker Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, advised students: "Neither be defensive nor apologetic about who you are, and don't get used to rejection! Mentoring is about a positive way forward for black and ethnic minority students, and I am proud to be associated with the National Mentoring Consortium".

Other key speakers Chris Parsons, graduate recruitment partner at Herbert Smith, Gloria Mills, Director of equal opportunities at Unison, Jill Tombs, Director of Human Resources at Mencap, Valerie Tweed, Welfare to Work Co-ordinator at the Disablement Association of Barking and Dagenham and Alan Ingle, Secretary and Registrar of the University of East London (UEL).

Accepting his award, Hackney resident Roger Shannon said: "It was a great experience and I feel I have benefited in many ways, not least in building my confidence in my own abilities. The programme exceeded my expectations and I'm grateful for all the support I have received from Simon and from the NMC."

Roger received six months of mentoring support from Simon Buckley, Small Businesses Coach at Barclays Bank. He said: "Roger has been a joy to work with as he is very committed to getting results. The mentoring scheme is excellent for people working in a professional environment, and allows us to give help in that field and provide mentees with vital support and information".

The Employer of the Year award was won by Barclays Bank, New Employer of the Year by Lehman Brothers and Disability Undergraduate Scheme Employer by the Department for Work and Pensions.

Presenting the awards for the Disability Undergraduate Scheme, Valerie Tweed, Welfare to Work Co-ordinator at the Disablement Association of Barking and Dagenham, who also volunteered as a mentor, said "It has been a wonderful opportunity to support undergraduates and improve my own skills. The Disability Undergraduate Scheme is an excellent development opportunity for all involved".

Jacqueline Andrew, 33, completing her BA (Hons) Playwork and Youth Studies degree at UEL, said: "It has been a rewarding experience that has helped me build confidence and networking skills." Jacqueline's mentor Riaz Patel, a Civil Servant at the Home Office, said: "The programme is excellent because of the support provided. It enables people from different walks of life to interact with each other in a constructive and productive way. It's about being a critical friend".

The National Mentoring Consortium (NMC) matches students from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those with disabilities, in one-to-one mentoring relationships with managers and executives in industry and public sector organisations. Since its foundation in 1994, its membership has grown to include 32 universities and 385 employers including government departments and agencies, banks, law firms and media corporations.

NMC Director Joe Greenland said: "We are all in the business of providing skills and opportunities to students from disadvantaged backgrounds to help them achieve their best. So fight a good fight - success is there to be won!"