

Celebration of success for the Disabled Undergraduate Mentoring Scheme 2004 - 2005



A pioneering mentoring programme linking disabled students with mentors from industry, public and voluntary sector organisations, celebrated its first successful year with a ceremony held at Duncan House on the University of East London (UEL) Stratford campus, on Thursday 8th June.

The National Mentoring Consortium (NMC), based at UEL, matches students from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, and those with disabilities, in one-to-one mentoring relationships with managers in industry, public and voluntary sector organisations.

Ellie Mirzadeh, who lives at UEL's Barking campus on Longbridge Road, and Sabrina Paul, from Mead's Lane, Seven Kings, were joint winners of the 'Mentee of the Year' award for their achievements on the scheme.

Ellie, 22, is now starting the second year of her BA (Hons) Business Studies degree at UEL. She has a severe motor disability, hopes to set up her own business when she graduates, and received mentoring support from Valerie Tweed of the Disablement Association of Barking & Dagenham. Ellie said: "I have really enjoyed my experience on the mentoring programme. Valerie has helped me grow in confidence and given me a lot of ideas."

Sabrina, 25, is going into the second year of her BSc (Hons) Computing degree having completed her HND at UEL. She was mentored by IT Computer Programmer and Analyst at HSBC plc in Canary Wharf. Sabrina, who combines her studies with looking after her two young children, said: "This has been an inspirational experience for me. Debra has given me so much of her time and knowledge and as a group of mentees we have helped and supported each other."

Mentors came from many different partner organisations, including the City of London Police, Department of Work and Pensions, Disablement Association of Barking & Dagenham, HSBC plc, the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, the Museum of London and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

Joe Greenland, Director of the National Mentoring Consortium, said: "The ingredients of success are goodwill, commitment and the resource to make it happen. Winnie Beckley, who has organised this programme since its launch last year, has an abundance of all three!"



**National
Mentoring
Consortium**

" The aim of the scheme is to help students prepare for their future, and have a say in their own destiny. For employers, there is a strong business case for embracing disability, as well as a legal and moral obligation. Through creating effective mentoring partnerships, this will benefit students, mentors and their employers".