

# BUSINESSES ARE RECOGNISED FOR HELPING YOUNGSTERS



**WINNERS** Back row, from left, Doug Wood of Buddy's, Hayley Hamlett of The Rowans, Mike Kimmer of Mansell Construction, Karen Moore of Hair OTT and Lisa Bowles from the Marriott Hotel. Front from left, Alison Slater of IBM, Scarlett Burgon and Hayley Jenkins of Fire and Stone, and Gill Millett of Park Community School

Picture: Ian Hargreaves (103532-1)

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## Awards night celebrates those who give up time to assist young people

EXTRAORDINARY business men and women who have given up their free time to help young people prepare for the real world were given a big thanks for being 'amazing'.

The Education Business Partnership (EBP) Amazing People Awards 2010 ceremony at the Southsea Holiday Inn on Tuesday night recognised their incredible contribution over the last year.

From hairdressers to construction companies, IT firms, hotels and even clothes shops – dozens of local businesses were applauded for their generous and innovative work with EBP.

Mike Kimmer, of Mansell Construction, who won the gong for outstanding contribution for a large company, has organised work experi-

ence, careers events and site visits for primary, secondary and college students.

He said: 'It is fantastic to win, I'm very pleased.'

'I can honestly say that working with schools and colleges has been a great deal of fun, and it is also a great way of letting the younger generations know what the business is about.'

Karen Moore from hair salon Hair Ott walked away with outstanding individual contribution.

She said she prided herself on helping displaced 14 to 16-year-olds raise their aspirations through work experience with the prospect of getting a job.

'We are making them believe in themselves by

giving them real-life skills,' Mrs Moore said.

This year alone, Portsmouth businesses volunteered more than 55,000 hours of their own time to education initiatives, worth a staggering £1m.

Doug Wood, of Buddy's Hydrotherapy Centre, was delighted with his award for outstanding contribution for a small company, despite being open just 11 months.

He said: 'When young people come to work with me I involve them in every area of the business, and I've even recruited from work experience. Out of 16 placements last year I took on two people full time.'

Cath Longhurst, chief executive of EBP who presented the awards, said: 'The night went

really well – it was lovely to have so many nominations to say thank you to many really special people.

'It is so important to recognise the work businesses do in education, especially during these difficult financial times.'

'Businesses in Portsmouth are giving up a huge amount of time and resources to reach out to schools and make a difference to the lives of young people. We also know businesses get something back from the work they do in education, so it's nice to know the benefits work both ways.'

**Working with schools and colleges has been fun**

Mike Kimmer

## ROLL OF HONOUR

- Outstanding Individual Contribution to Education Business Partnerships  
Winner: Karen Moore - Hair Ott  
Runner-up: Jo Walsh - Marks & Spencer
- Outstanding Contribution to Education Business Partnerships - Small Company  
Winner: Doug Wood - Buddy's Hydrotherapy Centre  
Runner-up: Annabel Cook - Ashcroft Arts Centre
- Outstanding Contribution to Education Business Partnerships - Medium Company  
Winner: Lisa Bowles - Marriott Hotel

- Runner-up: Sue Higgon - Lovell2 (Gosport)
- Outstanding Contribution to Education Business Partnerships - Large Company  
Winner: Mike Kimmer - Mansell Construction  
Runner-up: Laura Ruck - Pfizer
- Best Newcomer to EBP  
Winner: Hayley Jenkins - Fire & Stone  
Runner-up: Nicole Tomlinson - Fat Face
- Exceptional Workplace Provider  
Winner: Hayley Hamlett - The Rowans Hospice

- Runner-up: Lisa Bowles - Marriott Hotel
- Most Enterprising Teacher  
Winner: Gill Millett - Park Community School  
Runner-up: Lindsey Everitt - Horndean Technology College
- Best Mentor  
Winner: Alison Slater - IBM  
Runner-up: Colin Young - mentor at Springfield School
- Education Business Partnership Award 2010 - Long Standing Commitment  
Winner: Alison Slater - IBM