



SOUTH WEST TEACHERS TOP OF THE CLASS

Adult learners across the South West are to benefit from the extension of a highly successful £2.5 million teacher training project, managed by Learning South West.

The Crystal Chandelier is a regional project working to create more and better teachers to support adult learners to improve their English and maths skills. In the run up to Adult Learners' Week 2007 (May 19-25) Learning South West has announced the extension of the project which will now end in June 2008.

According to Learning South West's Crystal Chandelier Project Manager, Paula Jones, the extension is great news for residents across the region.

"We are delighted to announce the extension of The Crystal Chandelier project which will allow more people in the South West to improve their English and maths skills through highly qualified teachers.

"Good English and maths skills can improve the quality of life for individuals and bring great economic and social benefits for the region."

The project, launched in July 2005, is part of a drive to improve the nation's literacy, language and numeracy skills – known as Skills for Life. It has already put 1,143 teachers on the road to becoming qualified adult English and maths teachers.

The Government believes that there are still too many people who are being held back in their everyday life because they need help with these skills. One way of doing this is to ensure that there are enough qualified teachers available to deliver Skills for Life courses.

Learning South West won the European Social Fund (ESF) contract with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to deliver the project across Devon, Somerset, West of England, Wiltshire and Swindon, Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole and Gloucestershire.

To find out more visit www.crystalchandelier.org.uk.

Ends

For further information or to arrange interviews please contact PROs Beth Jerrett on 07969355459 or email jerrettbeth@yahoo.co.uk or Nick Cashin on 01823 365445 or email nick_cashin@learning-southwest.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

- Radio and press interviews with teachers who have already completed their Skills for Life training supported by The Crystal Chandelier may be arranged.
- Learning South West is an educational charity, based at Bishops Hull, near Taunton. Find out more about Learning South West at www.learning-southwest.org.uk.
- Find out more about Adult Learners' Week at www.niace.org.uk/alw/2007/