



In association with



Supported by



**2011**

# **THE AWARDS**

## WINNERS

Thursday 24 November 2011

Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London



In association with



Supported by



2011

# THE AWARDS

This year's *Times Higher Education* Awards see the university's three core missions of research, teaching and engagement represented in an array of innovation and inspiration.

Among the research achievements that captured the imagination of our judges are a wristwatch blood-pressure monitor, a light-based decontaminant that destroys hospital superbugs, and software that is able to help traffic flow more smoothly and increase the safety of jet engines.

Teaching impact reaches across borders with a training scheme for China's breast cancer specialists of the future and an "enterprise for life" programme that has been delivered to over 30,000 students in

200 universities worldwide by one enterprising and innovative teacher in Belfast.

In the community, lives are being changed by projects that help to ease isolation among Congolese migrant women and children, and increase recruitment of bright pupils from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

This year the coveted accolade of University of the Year goes to a university that had the courage in a climate of financial uncertainty to go back to its roots and focus on the values of a civic institution: serving the people and the economy of the city.

Congratulations to them and to all of our winners.

*Ann Mroz Editor*







## JUDGES

**Paul Boyle**, acting chief executive, Economic and Social Research Council, and international champion, Research Councils UK

**Liam Burns**, president, National Union of Students

**Chris Cobb**, chief operating officer and university secretary, University of London

**Patrick Finch**, bursar and director of estates, University of Bristol

**David S. Frost**, executive chairman, National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education

**Paul Hannon**, acting chief executive officer, National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education

**Craig Mahoney**, chief executive, Higher Education Academy

**Ben Marks**, managing director, OpinionPanel

**Janet Metcalfe**, chair and head, Vitae

**Joanna Newman**, director, UK Higher Education International Unit

**Paul Ramsden**, key associate of PhillipsKPA, visiting professor, Institute of Education, and former chief executive, Higher Education Academy

**Lesley Thompson**, director of research base, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

**Hugh Tollyfield**, higher education observer and former deputy director for further education and qualifications strategy, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

**Shearer West**, head of the humanities division, University of Oxford

**John Widdowson**, principal and chief executive, New College Durham

**Ewart Wooldridge**, founding chief executive, Leadership Foundation for Higher Education



# LORD DEARING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Tessa Blackstone

Tessa Blackstone is unique in higher education, having straddled the worlds of academia, politics and academic leadership over a lifetime of outstanding achievement in all three.

From the London School of Economics, where she began her career, she moved to the Cabinet Office as an early member of the Central Policy Review Staff, to the Institute of Education, University of London where she resumed her academic career, before transferring to the Inner London Education Authority as deputy education officer. She was awarded a life peerage in 1987 and became Baroness Blackstone.

Her next role was as master of Birkbeck, University of London, where she stayed for a decade, transforming the college's fortunes and enabling it to become the vibrant success it still is today.

After the 1997 general election, she was appointed minister of state with responsibility for higher education, a post she held for the whole of the first Blair administration, bringing much-valued stability, along with a depth of knowledge of and sympathy for the sector. Rarely has higher education had such an effective champion in government.

In 1998, Baroness Blackstone was one of four European ministers for higher education to sign the Sorbonne Declaration. This paved the way for the Bologna Process, which is having a profound impact on the development of higher education throughout Europe and more widely.

In 2004, Tessa joined the University of Greenwich as vice-chancellor, and oversaw the growth in size and reputation of an already sizeable university. She retired from this post in 2011.

**“As minister of state with responsibility for higher education, Tessa Blackstone brought much-valued stability, along with a depth of knowledge of and sympathy for the sector”**





# EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE ARTS

## University of Warwick

The University of Warwick's Hippocrates Prize for Poetry and Medicine, now in its third year, is given to poetry on a medical theme.

One category is open to all and has been won in previous years by the renowned poets C.K. Stead and Michael Henry. The other award is restricted to UK health students and those who have worked in the NHS. The first prize in each category is £5,000.

The prizes have attracted more than 3,000 entries from 31 countries in their first two years and have received widespread media coverage.

“Traditionally, poetry speaks to big moments in your life,” said Fiona Sampson, editor of the *Poetry Review*, “so it is quite natural for people to turn to it when thinking about illness, whether they are patients or medical professionals.”

The awards are presented at an annual

symposium, which Michael Hulse, associate professor in the department of English and comparative literary studies at Warwick, said was designed to “encourage research on both the clinical and the literary aspects of the partnership between poetry and medicine”.

He added: “We are beginning to amass evidence of the beneficial impact that poetry can have in therapeutic contexts, and at the same time we are tracing a neglected but major strand in the history of poetry, from Lucretius to the present.”

The Hippocrates Prize for Poetry and Medicine, commented judge Shearer West, head of the humanities division at the University of Oxford, “represents a highly imaginative engagement with medical humanities. By attracting internationally recognised poets, this prize fosters closer partnerships between humanities and medical science.”

**“This prize attracts internationally recognised poets and fosters closer partnerships between humanities and medical science”**





# OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

## University of Manchester

The University of Manchester's new online resource aims to encourage honest self-appraisal by aspiring academics – and it received nearly 17,000 hits in its first three months.

The website, *An Academic Career*, was devised after a survey of more than 1,500 early career researchers at Manchester revealed that 70 per cent aimed to stay in academia – despite the evidence that only a minority of doctoral students attain permanent research positions.

The site contains practical information about obtaining an academic job, but also describes the realities of academic life and career paths. It encourages users – in separate sections for master's students, doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers – to ask themselves searching questions about what they want from a career and whether they have what it takes to be an academic.

The messages are reinforced by interviews with current academics at different stages in their careers.

Developed with extensive feedback from academics, potential users and the research councils, the site received more than 16,500 visits in its first three months, with the self-assessment sections proving the most popular. Most users were from outside Manchester, fulfilling the site's aim to be a resource for aspiring academics across the UK and beyond.

Judge Janet Metcalfe, chair and head of Vitae, said the website “reaches the parts of an academic career that others fear to tread. It suggests that existing researchers take a hard-headed look at their career potential and ask ‘Have you got what it takes?’ It is not about being very good, but about being better than all the other very good people trying to succeed in academia – on a global scale.”

**“Manchester’s new online resource reaches the parts of an academic career that others fear to tread”**





# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

## University of Derby

“I am a different person – I have got my life back.”

This testimonial from a member of the Congolese community speaks volumes about the transformational impact of the University of Derby’s work with the forced migrant group over the past year.

The university consulted with deprived communities throughout the city and worked with migrants from the Democratic Republic of Congo to design a programme to tackle isolation among women and children.

Projects included a sewing group, art therapy for traumatised migrants and a drop-in centre to support community members struggling with issues such as the asylum process, job seeking and referrals to doctors. To date, 18 projects have been launched.

These schemes have benefited more than

500 local people, as well as having a general impact on the community. Among these are seven individuals who, through the help offered at the drop-in centre, have been given indefinite leave to remain in the UK, six who have been given help with health problems, and a father and daughter who have been reunited.

One community member, whose four children are also now living in the UK, said that the project had been “transformational” for his family.

Shearer West, head of the humanities division at the University of Oxford and one of the judges, said: “Derby undertook a sensitive, focused analysis of the needs of vulnerable women and youth in their local Congolese community. This represents an outstanding example of knowledge exchange that has strengthened community links with the university in Derby.”

**“An outstanding example of knowledge exchange that has strengthened community links with the university in Derby”**



# WIDENING PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

## Realising Opportunities Partnership submitted by Newcastle University

Realising Opportunities is an outreach project involving 12 leading research-intensive universities committed to increasing the recruitment of bright students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Summer schools, academic tutors, online study skills classes and e-mentoring by undergraduates were used to encourage teenagers classed among the “most able, least likely” to apply to top universities.

Based at Newcastle University, the scheme has targeted more than 500 Year 12 and Year 13 students from educationally and socially disadvantaged backgrounds since it started in September 2009. It creates a bespoke support package for each student to help them when applying to university.

Staff and students from all 12 institutions – Birmingham, Bristol, Essex, Exeter, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Warwick, York and King’s College London – engaged prospective students during the application process for entry in autumn 2011.

The project’s e-mentoring site was visited 12,000 times for an average of 30 minutes per session between May 2010 and May 2011. About 95 per cent of participating Year 13 students applied for entry in 2011 and 58 per cent of those applications were made to research-intensive universities.

The project was funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, and the 12 institutions in the partnership have agreed to continue it beyond the pilot phase.

John Widdowson, principal and chief executive of New College Durham and a member of the judging panel, said: “This is an innovative national partnership showing evidence of real impact and great potential.

“The use of e-mentoring by current students provides a real link with prospective students and has resulted in increased application rates to targeted courses. The obvious success of the project for all concerned indicates that the partnership will be developed in the future.”

**“E-mentoring by current students provides a link with prospective students and has resulted in increased application rates to targeted courses”**



# OUTSTANDING EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

## University of Derby

University of Derby Corporate (UDC) accredits work-based education for major firms, helping employees to gain university qualifications that are designed to be highly relevant to their jobs. The university advises on the curriculum of corporate training programmes and on how they are assessed, and develops the skills of company tutors.

The initiative has grown exponentially since 2008-09, when it brought in £800,000 a year from just eight clients and some 200 learners. In 2010-11, its income was £4 million, and it served 2,451 learners for 261 clients. Derby plans to double the programme's scale by 2015.

“From the initial conversation, right through to implementation of the programme and beyond, I've found working with UDC a refreshing and fruitful experience that has helped to provide our employees going through the programme with a quality stamp to their development,” said Andy Llewellyn, head of learning

and development at Citibank UK.

Hugh Tollyfield, formerly deputy director for further education and qualifications strategy at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and a member of the judging panel, said: “We had a very strong group of entries, demonstrating the excellence of UK universities in responding to the needs of business. Universities are co-creating programmes with business, and delivering learning flexibly in a range of modes, supported by well-designed rigorous assessment to meet the needs of employers.

“This is exemplified by this year's winner, University of Derby Corporate, which delivers a comprehensive, in-depth and professional business-to-business service. Derby has amassed an impressive portfolio of major UK and international company clients. It shows the sector just what can be achieved with the necessary commitment and leadership.”

**“University of Derby Corporate delivers a comprehensive, in-depth and professional business-to-business service”**

Award sponsored by Communications Management



# OUTSTANDING ICT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR

## University of Southampton

It is now relatively easy to bookmark or link to a complete podcast or video recording. What is far more difficult is for students to tie their notes or other resources to a particular part of a recording. The result can be like trying to use a textbook without a contents section, index or page numbers.

This problem has been solved by the University of Southampton's application Synote, which uses speech-recognition techniques to synchronise audio, video, screen capture and narrated PowerPoint lectures with a transcript, notes or tags.

The material can be organised using "bookmarks" known as Synmarks. The provision of verbatim synchronised transcripts means that students can concentrate on learning and need take only brief notes. While this benefits everybody, it is particularly useful for non-anglophones

and those who are dyslexic or hearing-impaired, given the difficulty of taking extensive notes while lip-reading or watching a sign-language interpreter. It also makes such students feel more included, since they no longer have to sit at the front of every class and ask the teacher if they can make (poor-quality) recordings of their lectures on personal digital recorders.

"From an excellent field," said judge Chris Cobb, chief operating officer and university secretary, University of London, "the Southampton Synote system captured the judges' interest owing to its combination of innovation, application and impact.

"The combined synchronisation and transcription of audio and video sources has a multitude of uses, not least for the enhancement of learning and teaching and improving access to resources for disabled students."

**Synote's combined synchronisation and transcription of audio and video sources has a multitude of uses**





# OUTSTANDING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

## Loughborough and Coventry universities

Mathematics drop-in classes have proved a massive hit since they were started at Loughborough and Coventry universities.

More than 12,000 students visited the Sigma Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the two universities between September 2010 and May 2011, with a further 13,000 visitors going to the Mathcentre resources website each month.

Students in disciplines from architecture to zoology have benefited from up to 40 hours of support each week since the project started in 2005. Those with severe confidence issues, maths-phobia or other needs can get extra help at the Sigma project's Eureka Centre for Mathematical Confidence, and one-to-one support classes for students working on particular projects are also available. Student ambassadors have helped to promote the scheme and acted as mentors alongside academic staff.

Sigma went national in 2010-11 and was introduced to universities that previously

had no such provision. Six regional hubs have also been established to provide opportunities for staff to share good practice, while many other universities have already copied the Sigma model.

“We stand on the shoulders of giants,” said John O’Donoghue, director of Ireland’s National Centre for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and Learning. “Coventry and Loughborough and Sigma are the giants. We have unashamedly copied our ideas from them.”

“Sigma is a fantastic example of institutions recognising genuine concerns in standards and acting in a positive way to address them. Students’ reports about the support they received were exceptionally positive,” said judge Liam Burns, president of the National Union of Students. “Loughborough and Coventry should be incredibly proud of delivering support for students in a positive, innovative and transferable way.”

**“Sigma is a fantastic example of institutions recognising genuine concerns in standards and acting in a positive way to address them”**



# MOST IMPROVED STUDENT EXPERIENCE

## Royal Veterinary College

The people who selected the winner in this category are perhaps the most qualified of any of our judges – the students themselves.

In the biggest poll ever carried out for this award, 14,000 full-time undergraduates were asked to assess their university or college on 21 attributes, giving it a rating on a seven-point scale.

The winner was the Royal Veterinary College, which leapfrogged up the league table this year with particular progress in its support for students and the general environment on campus.

The facilities on offer were another area highlighted for praise by participants in the survey, and there were marked improvements in scores for lecturers, with students rating highly both the quality of teaching and the level of interest shown in them by staff.

The polling was carried out by OpinionPanel, which designed its methodology to ensure that the results were as meaningful as possible.

Students were not told the purpose of the survey and were unable to take the survey more than once, and institutions with a sample size of less than 50 responses were excluded from the ranking.

Mia Lorenz, associate director at OpinionPanel, said: “The winner of the award is the university that shows the greatest average improvement in terms of both its ranked increase in score and its ranked position.

“The Royal Veterinary College moved up 37 positions in the rankings and improved its overall score by 8.1 points, and we’re delighted to say it came out as the overall winner of the most improved award.”

**“The Royal Veterinary College moved up 37 positions in the rankings and improved its overall score by 8.1 points”**





# RESEARCH PROJECT OF THE YEAR

## University of Strathclyde

Hospital superbugs have nowhere to hide thanks to a new light-based decontaminant developed at the University of Strathclyde.

A multidisciplinary team of experts from the university discovered that a narrow spectrum of visible light wavelengths, called HINS-light, is lethal to bacterial pathogens including MRSA, *E. coli*, *C. difficile* and the tuberculosis bacterium.

Trials at Glasgow Royal Infirmary showed that long-term use of the ceiling-mounted HINS-light Environmental Decontamination System, developed by the team, led to a greater reduction in bacterial pathogens than could be achieved by using disinfectant alone. Long-term use in an occupied isolation room led to an 86 per cent reduction in bacterial contamination.

Unlike alternative decontamination techniques that use gas or ultraviolet light, the HINS-light technology is harmless to staff and patients. This means it is possible,

for the first time, to continuously disinfect wards without the need to move patients.

The technology, developed at Strathclyde's Robertson Trust Laboratory for Electronic Sterilisation Technologies, also uses LED technology to mask the light's violet hue, producing a warm, white light. This means it can be used in tandem with normal hospital lighting. It has generated global media coverage and has attracted extensive interest from hospital clinicians, government and commercial organisations.

Judge Shearer West, head of the University of Oxford's humanities division, said: "This revolutionary research project has demonstrated how light can be used to battle the critical problem of hospital superbugs.

"It shows that they can be destroyed by the effective deployment of HINS-light, which avoids more hazardous or intrusive approaches to decontamination."

**“This revolutionary research project has demonstrated how light can be used to battle the critical problem of hospital superbugs”**





# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR

## Cardiff University

Training the Chinese cancer specialists of the future and exploring new approaches to detecting and treating cancer won Cardiff University its award for international collaboration of the year.

The prevalence of breast cancer has increased in China in recent years, making it an urgent issue.

Cardiff's partnership with Capital Medical University in Beijing was initiated to educate and train an under-served group of professionals in China – middle-ranking clinicians and researchers.

Since the project began, 16 Capital Medical research fellows have come to Cardiff. Their research has explored the metastasis of breast cancer, examining how the disease spreads around the body from the original tumour. Findings so far have led to 26 papers being published in highly ranked medical journals.

The partnership projects have discovered new biomarkers not only for breast cancer but also for prostate and kidney cancer.

The Chinese scholars have become research leaders in their field, with more than half of them winning research funding from the Chinese government when they returned home.

Cardiff researchers have benefited from the clinical and human tissue collection held by Capital Medical, and the partnership has helped Cardiff to secure international research grants. The collaboration has also attracted the support of Albert Hung, a Hong Kong-based entrepreneur and philanthropist who will fund the second phase of the partnership, which will see 20 more Chinese researchers travel to Cardiff over the next four years.

One of the judges, Paul Boyle, acting chief executive of the Economic and Social Research Council and international champion at Research Councils UK, said: "This project demonstrates the value that comes from bringing together international experts who can forge world-class partnerships that are sustainable."

**“This project demonstrates the value of bringing together international experts who can forge world-class partnerships that are sustainable”**



# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## Harper Adams University College

The anaerobic digestion project with which Harper Adams University College won this award can perhaps best be described as a lot of hot air.

The institution's recycling of waste products to produce methane, which is then harnessed to run a combined heat and power engine that produces electricity and heat, has overcome scepticism from the local community to produce a successful project expected to reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions from Harper Adams by around 14,500 tonnes.

Funding for the system was provided by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Salix Revolving Green Fund.

Work began on its development in April 2009, and the system began producing electricity from the waste products in April this year.

The anaerobic digestion project is such an effective one that it will allow the institution to reach its strategic carbon reduction targets to 2020.

Patrick Finch, bursar and director of estates at the University of Bristol, past chairman of the Association of University Directors of Estates and one of the judges, said: "Harper Adams has produced a groundbreaking project.

"While this has been trialled before, the judges felt that the work on developing a system that would produce a step change in carbon management at the college had the potential for wider application in the higher education community and in the farming sector.

"Energy and carbon savings, reduction in waste to landfill and release of farmland for growing food crops together present a compelling case."

**“Energy and carbon savings, reduction in waste to landfill and release of farmland for growing food crops together present a compelling case”**



# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

## University of Leicester

A team of researchers at the University of Leicester used a combination of disciplines and sophisticated mathematical modelling to create a device that could revolutionise the way we measure and monitor blood pressure for the first time in more than a century.

Led by Bryan Williams, professor of medicine at the institution, scientists developed a sensor that can be worn as a wristwatch but at the same time uses complex formulae to accurately measure blood pressure in the vessels close to the heart.

In doing so, it is a step on from the conventional method of measuring blood pressure, which, by using a cuff inflated around the upper arm, is able to obtain a reading for vessels only in that part of the body.

Instead, the new sensor filters out the “amplification” effect that means blood in

the arm tends to be at a higher pressure than vessels closer to the heart, such as the aorta.

Leicester’s researchers collaborated with a private company on the project, as well as receiving funding from the NHS, and now have high hopes for the commercial success of the venture.

Judge Chris Cobb, chief operating officer and university secretary, University of London, said Professor Williams and his team “have transformed the measurement and monitoring of blood pressure”.

“By using a combination of disciplines and sophisticated mathematical modelling, the team have developed a sensor that can be worn as a wristwatch to monitor blood pressure over prolonged periods and under different environmental conditions,” he said.

“The device will have significant and immediate health benefits and the potential for considerable commercial success.”

**“The device will have significant and immediate health benefits and the potential for considerable commercial success”**



# OUTSTANDING ENGINEERING RESEARCH TEAM OF THE YEAR

## University of York

Smoother-flowing traffic and safer jet engines are just two of the benefits already achieved with the use of an application developed by the University of York's Advanced Computer Architectures Group.

The Aura (Advanced Uncertain Reasoning Architecture) project aims to allow the huge amounts of disparate data produced by many modern systems to be processed in a useful way.

The development of the software drew on ideas about how the human brain deals with the vast quantity of sensory data it receives.

The technology allows researchers to search large, complex datasets for patterns that are similar to those exhibited by current data and which might provide a clue as to how the system will behave in the future.

It has been used by Rolls-Royce to analyse unusual activity in aircraft engines. The company's use of the technology was

cited by aircraft manufacturer Boeing as a reason why it chose Roll-Royce engines for its new 787 Dreamliner aircraft.

The software has also been used by the Department for Transport to analyse traffic data. A number of changes to traffic-light sequencing have been shown in trials to improve the flow of traffic.

The York team has set up a spin-off company to develop the application of the technology in other areas such as medicine, power generation and wind energy systems.

Judge Lesley Thompson, director of research base, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, said: "This team demonstrated internationally leading engineering research with a broad utility.

"This was coupled with strong team working, extending partnering with industrial collaborators so that the research findings were successfully translated into commercial advantage. An impressive achievement."

**“Internationally leading engineering research with a broad utility, coupled with strong team working, translated into commercial advantage”**





# OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

## Durham University

Durham University's Strategy Academy was described by the judges as having "all the key features of a high-quality progressive and sustainable leadership development programme".

Its use of "real-time" challenges and a "pan-university" approach, where participants cut across academic, professional and departmental boundaries, was commended.

The university set up the academy last year after feedback from its previous leadership programmes showed that people had a desire to learn and develop alongside colleagues from other parts of the institution.

Each programme in the new strategy is linked to a real issue presently being tackled by the university, and groups are sponsored by Durham's executive committee so that outcomes can be put forward as real plans for the future.

Individuals consider each issue via five one-day modules tackling the complexity of change, creating a vision, finding creative solutions, harnessing individual and team energy, and engaging with others.

Examples of the challenges tackled include "How does Durham achieve its goal of being a top-50 world university by 2020?" and "Developing and embedding university values".

Ewart Wooldridge, founding chief executive of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, said the academy had succeeded by cutting across the institution, integrating real-time projects and balancing the needs of the university and its people.

"It is also clearly part of an ongoing, long-term process of leadership and organisational development which involves a variety of different techniques and approaches," he said.

**“The Strategy Academy has all the key features of a high-quality progressive and sustainable leadership development programme”**



# MOST INNOVATIVE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

## David Gibson

Employers often complain that graduates struggle in the cut-and-thrust of commerce because they lack an entrepreneurial spirit and business skills.

But David Gibson, senior teaching fellow at Queen's University Management School in Belfast, set out to change that perception by establishing a project to give "enterprise for life" skills to all non-business students.

Based on students creating their own businesses, his enterprise education course is now embedded in 67 academic areas at Queen's, reaching 11,000 students across the university.

For instance, history students were assessed on their ability to develop sustainable social enterprises for heritage sites in Ireland, while nurses were asked to create products to solve health problems.

More than 30,000 students have participated in the scheme since it began in 2003, with 1,100 directly engaging in business activity.

It has now been rolled out across more than 200 universities worldwide and has been adopted by the European Training Foundation to enhance the employability of graduates across the European Union.

The programme has gained further plaudits in the US, where Mr Gibson was the first European to be named the world's number-one enterprise educator by the United States Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship in 2010-11.

Judge Paul Ramsden, key associate of PhillipsKPA, visiting professor at the Institute of Education and former head of the Higher Education Academy, said: "David has made enterprise studies into a reality for over 30,000 students – in subjects as diverse as history and physics.

"His strong focus on student engagement, his genuine cross-discipline approach and his groundbreaking model of venture-based learning have had an impact not only locally but also in universities across the world."

**“His groundbreaking model of venture-based learning has had an impact not only locally but also in universities across the world”**





# ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

## Coventry University

This award seeks out the institution that has best demonstrated that it encourages its students, staff and others to behave in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion.

From a strong field, the judges named Coventry University the winner. They praised it for showing entrepreneurial flair across the campus and in its relationship with students, as well as demonstrating an impact on local businesses.

It has awarded 23 enterprise scholarships worth £2,000 to students, and more than 100 students have been supported in entrepreneurial activities by a team of 24 mentors. Other initiatives include annual entrepreneurialism prizes for staff, and performance reviews that encourage employees to innovate.

The university works with about 9,500 small and medium-sized enterprises, accounting for 37 per cent of all such businesses that worked with universities in 2009-10.

It has also secured the maximum possible funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund for the next four years, and is extending its efforts abroad by helping Oman and Nigeria to foster business incubation systems.

“It was clear from all the staff interviewed that an entrepreneurial culture permeates all levels of Coventry University,” said David S. Frost, executive chairman of the National Centre for Entrepreneurship in Education and a member of the judging panel.

“From the vice-chancellor there was a coherent analysis of the importance of entrepreneurial activity not only to the university and its students but also to the wider community and local economy. A combination of interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial institutes, physical developments, strong leadership, exciting international activity and lively engagement by staff and students provided the basis for selecting Coventry for this award.”

**“A combination of interdisciplinary institutes, strong leadership, exciting international activity and lively engagement by staff and students”**





# UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR

## University of Sheffield

Winning the top award of University of the Year requires truly exceptional achievements across a wide range of areas.

That the University of Sheffield more than fulfilled this criterion is a testament to a new strategy “based on our values and rooted on our founding principles”. That served as a platform for a host of worthy accomplishments, ranging from the opening of the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, established with £8 million donated by local benefactors, to the launch of an inspirational project to help bereaved children in the city.

In rethinking its strategy, Sheffield took a conscious decision “not to be overwhelmed by debates about government funding and tuition fees”.

The university’s founding mission to boost Sheffield’s economy was a key inspiration behind the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre. Billed as the UK’s leading university-manufacturing industry collaboration, the centre was

recently named “Boeing Supplier of the Year”, trumping 17,000 companies worldwide.

Excellent National Student Survey results confirm Sheffield’s focus on students, and its students’ union became the only one in the country to receive a gold award in the Student Union Evaluation Initiative.

At the same time, 1,310 students and staff from 55 departments raised £178,000 for local good causes through the Sheffield Volunteering scheme, while a centre offering free legal support helped Sheffield to win the Duke of York’s Community Initiative Award – a first for any university.

“With the increasing focus on the global university, it takes real guts to focus on the local community, especially in a time of such uncertainty,” said Ann Mroz, editor of *Times Higher Education*. “Drawing on its founding principles, Sheffield showed determination and grit to make a lasting contribution to the future of the city. It has been an inspired and inspiring move.”

“**Sheffield showed determination and grit to make a lasting contribution to the future of the city. It has been an inspired and inspiring move**”



