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## **Royal United Hospital wins National Learning Award**

On Wednesday 16 September, staff at the Royal United Hospital will receive the first national award for Inspiring Learning. During a visit to the hospital, representatives of Campaign for Learning and The Open University will present the trophy and a cheque for £100 to spend on learning and development.

Head of core learning at the RUH Tracy Elvins is delighted that the RUH has won the learning award. Tracy says: "We chose to highlight and celebrate the achievements of existing learners amongst our staff, so that we could encourage others to consider the benefits of studying themselves. We did this through a series of presentations, displays, photocalls and newsletters to give the highest possible profile to the successful students.

"Hospital staff were invited to write the name of a colleague – who had been inspired through learning - onto a 'gold star'. These stars were then displayed in a public area of the hospital on Learning at Work day in May. Danny Grewcock and Brad Davis from Bath Rugby also joined us to help celebrate the achievements that staff had made through learning, education and development."

'Gold learning star' staff nurse Trudie Young from Bath was nominated by her colleagues for her achievements that have set her firmly on a career path in nursing. Trudie initially worked as a hospital domestic but took training and development opportunities her become a staff nurse with a degree.

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The Inspiring Learning Award, sponsored by The Open University as part of its partnership with Campaign for Learning, aims to recognise the organisation that has best demonstrated how it inspired learning through its Learning at Work Day activities.

On Learning at Work Day, 14 May 2009, the OU organised more than 100 events and activities for staff at businesses and organisations across England. Meriel Lee, Assistant Director of the Open University in the South West, says "For 40 years The Open University has been committed to encouraging people in work to develop their skills to benefit themselves and the organisations they work for. Learning can and should be life-changing and this award recognises Royal United Hospital's celebration of its staff's achievements."

Tricia Hartley, Chief Executive of the Campaign for Learning says, "We are delighted to have worked with the Open University to offer this year's Inspiring Learning Award for Learning at Work Day and congratulate Royal United Hospital Bath on its success. Learning at Work Day is all about stimulating a love of learning and through our partnership with the Open University we have been able to support even more workplaces to experience the benefits that learning can bring."

### **Editors' Notes**

**Photo opportunity** At 1.00pm on 16 September – please contact communications office.

**Media interviews** With head of core learning Tracy Elvins – please contact communications office.

**The Open University** (OU) is the United Kingdom's largest university and the world leader in distance education. More than two million people have studied with the OU since it began in 1969. The OU has more than 200,000 students in over 40 countries studying for a variety of degrees and vocational qualifications ranging from short courses to PhDs.

**About the Campaign for Learning** The Campaign for Learning is an independent national charity working to put learning at the heart of social inclusion. It co-ordinates Learning at Work Day as part of Adult Learners' Week. Every year thousands of organisations run learning activities that aim to inspire a culture of learning in the workplace. Learning at Work Day 2010 will take place on 20 May 2010. For more information visit: [www.campaignforlearning.org.uk](http://www.campaignforlearning.org.uk)