

NORWICH

Ceremony celebrates top learners

The success of thousands of people who have studied for vocational qualifications at City College Norwich was celebrated at a glitzy ceremony yesterday.

Representatives from local businesses joined the students for the awards event at Fusion at The Forum as part of the second annual Vocational Qualifications (VQ) Day.

Awards were presented to eight exceptional learners taking qualifications at the college, including East of England VQ Hero and learner of the year Kerry Verrall, 37, of Norwich.

Kerry returned to learning last year after her employer, Yarmouth-based Thermaglow, encouraged her to take an NVQ level two management course at City College.

She was initially nervous but went on to achieve a level three qualification in four months. She has now completed the level four qualification and is moving on to an Open University degree in leadership and management.

Kerry said: "It was such a shock to get the award. I have worked hard all my life but it is great to be recognised for what I have achieved."

"I never thought of going into further education when I left school, so this is a second chance for me - a chance I would not have had if it was not for the support and

By **STEVE DOWNES**
Education correspondent

encouragement from Simon, Tim and Paula of Thermaglow and the support from my husband Mark and my family."

Other winners were:

HAIR AND BEAUTY

- Kaylee Brown, 21, from Brundall. Kaylee's enthusiasm and passion has taken her from NVQ level one in hairdressing to level three, always obtaining more than 90pc in her exams. She is planning to open her own salon and said: "I will definitely send my apprentices to City College."

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE AND EARLY YEARS

- Jade Brown, 18, from Thetford. Jade was excluded from school three times for poor behaviour and just gained sufficient grades to access the national certificate in children's learning and development. Jade went from strength to strength, despite finding the written work particularly challenging. Moving on from the certificate to the BTEC National Diploma just a year later, Jade has four university offers to study to be a teacher.

HOSPITALITY

- Marybeth Gibbons, 20, from Holt.



TOP LEARNER: East of England award winner Kerry Verrall with her employer Simon Young of Thermaglow outside the City College Norwich VQ Day event at Fusion in the Forum.

Marybeth took a 60-mile round trip on public transport for two years and never missed a lesson. She achieved NVQ level three in advanced food preparation and cooking, specialising in patisserie.

RETAIL

- Lauren Thomas, 18, from Norwich. Putting in many extra hours of homework to constantly achieve distinctions, Lauren completed her BTEC first diploma in retail early and is progressing to a level three diploma in business, admin and finance.

TOURISM

- Chloe Cross, 18, from Brundall. Chloe lived alone and worked to support herself through college. She consistently achieved distinctions over the two-year course and achieved a BTEC National Certificate in travel and tourism.

SPORT

- Ricardo Carnerio, 18, of Norwich. Despite English being his second language, just three years after moving from Portugal, Ricardo has not only obtained an extremely high level in both his sports therapy

course and the BTEC National Diploma sport and exercise science level three, but he is now the student manager of the City College gym.

TECHNOLOGY

- Robert Cadman, 19, from Cromer. For the first two years of Robert's three-year course he suffered from lack of motivation and commitment. Then in his final year, there was a total turnaround and change of attitude. He has revisited past modules to improve his grades and is focused on gaining the highest grades possible.



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