

inclusivelearning

e-bulletin/August 2019

Hello.

Last month, the team attended unionlearn's annual conference, where we heard from the TUC's General Secretary, Frances O'Grady, the then Skills Minister Anne Milton MP and Labour's Shadow Education Minister, Gordon Marsden MP.

We were also treated to an emotional performance from spoken word poet Hussain Manawer. And you can read about our award-winning ULRs whose work was recognised at the event in this edition.

On the day, unionlearn also launched a whole range of new resources for ULRs, including Working to Close the Digital Divide and Career Kickstart Reviews, which you can access at www.unionlearn.org.uk



JESS HURD/REPORTDIGITAL.CO.UK

Martin Russo, Inclusive Learning Project Manager

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BOOK YOUR PLACE ON OUR FUNCTIONAL SKILLS WEBINAR

We now have a date confirmed for the webinar we announced in the June e-bulletin to help UNISON learning reps (ULRs) and lifelong learning coordinators (LLCs) develop members' English, maths and digital skills.

The webinar will take place between 1pm and 1:45pm on Monday 16 September, when National Learning and Development Organiser Oreleo Du Cran will be leading a discussion about:

- what functional skills are
- how UNISON learning reps can help colleagues improve their functional skills
- what organisers need to know.

Oreleo will be drawing on the knowledge and skills of ULRs from local government and health branches including Carol McGrath (Leeds), Gillian Nixon (Barnsley), Esther Aruoture (Southwark) and Tom Jenkins (Guys' and St Thomas' Trust). To register for the webinar, visit: <https://bit.ly/2GqF2Xf>

You'll receive a confirmation email that will contain everything you need to know about joining the webinar.

If you won't be available on the day, you'll be able to watch a recording of the webinar after the event.

For further information contact: 020 7121 5116



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ULR awards

Two UNISON learning reps won recognition for their commitment and dedication at unionlearn's annual conference, which was held at Congress House in London last month.

Bridges to Learning Project Worker and Newcastle City Branch ULR Jane Yugire won her award for supporting maths learning in Newcastle, at the city council and among schools staff in particular.

Her work with schools has led to the development of a new course to help parents improve their maths and English skills and keep up with their children.

Derbyshire County Branch ULR Jayne Barry won her award for the massive amount of work she has undertaken to support apprentices at the local authority.

Jayne took the lead to design and implement an Apprenticeship Charter at the county council and has developed resources to introduce trade unions to young people entering the workforce.

"We are enormously proud of Jane and Jayne for the work they do supporting learning," says ULF Project Manager Martin Russo.



Staying Strong

Schools staff from across the London Borough of Enfield picked up practical tips about dealing with stress when they took part in the UNISON Staying Strong workshop last month.

Part of the member learning programme, Staying Strong helps participants explore what causes stress, identify the sources of stress in their own lives and learn some proven techniques to counter the effects of stress.

National Learning & Development Organiser Oreleo Du Cran, who delivered the workshop, enjoyed working with participants who embraced all the elements of the course.

"Each learner benefited from learning how to reduce and manage their stress levels, which we at UNISON believe leads to increased levels of wellbeing," Oreleo said.

The feedback from the diverse group of learners was positive. "Thank you for a nice session and the reminder that we need to take time out to look after ourselves," commented one, while one of the first-time participants said, "I felt relaxed and enjoyed it."



Reading Ahead

Newcastle City Branch marked the end of this year's Reading Ahead challenge with a successful celebration event last month.

Christine Herriot, Director of Operations & Regulatory Services at Newcastle City Council, welcomed everyone to the event, which also featured live music, a lunchtime buffet, UNISON stalls, a book stall and a free raffle.

Guest speaker Dr Jacky Collins, Senior Lecturer at Northumbria University, presented certificates to many of the 70-plus completers, who also received a Reading Ahead tote bag and book supplied by Newcastle Libraries, as well as UNISON goodies.

"Reading Ahead finished with another successful and uplifting event at City Library, celebrating not only readers completing the challenge but also the joy of books and how reading can be an inspirational and integral part of our lives," says ULR Evan Peck.

Once again, the branch ran Reading Ahead in partnership with Newcastle Libraries and City Learning, with Tyne Bridge Publishing also supporting the initiative for the first time this year.

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