

Top national award for Stockton work skills company SureTrax

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SureTrax's programme to help learners succeed in the world of work has come first in the UK



L-R Jon Barkess, SureTrax Business Development Manager, Founder Tony Osborne and David Wilson, SureTrax Product Development Manager

A Stockton learning scheme has been named top Enterprise Learning Product at the 2014 Celebration of Enterprise Awards.

Educational product specialist SureTrax provides young people with the “tools and confidence” to succeed in the world of work.

Its Self Marketing and Personal Enterprise Programme helps learners boost their employability and enterprise skills and engage with employers in a professional manner, according to the company. And now the scheme is being adopted by a growing network of colleges and training organisations.

Suretrax, which is based at [Stockton Business Centre](#) on the town's Brunswick Street, was presented with its award at a prestigious event at the House of Lords.

The annual Celebration of Enterprise awards, hosted by the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs (IOEE) and the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative (SFEDI), bring together key figures from the UK's small business, enterprise and skills sector. It's held to celebrate the best in enterprise learning and skills.

Suretrax's programme, which is Ofqual recognised and SFEDI accredited, has fast gained a reputation for 'helping learners to help themselves, building their self-belief and equipping them with practical skills' to succeed in the jobs market.

It's made up of six 'easy' steps to break into the world of work - and sustain a job.

These steps, Suretrax claims, help them to take control, realise and fulfil their potential through being organised and the skills and knowledge to continue developing their life and career.

Founder, Tony Osborne, said: "Our innovative approach promotes entrepreneurial and enterprising attitudes and creates a culture of ownership and action and provides learners with the confidence, skills and knowledge to proactively engage with the business world.

"Delegates are able to access a wider range of opportunities within the employment market by thinking like an employer.

"The SureTrax programme development team is experienced in leading high-performance business and sales teams in multi-national, blue-chip organisations with extensive knowledge of new business start-ups, recruitment, the Welfare to Work sector and labour market intelligence."

The programme has been developed over three years with the input of more than 1500 participants, a "high percentage" of which have moved into sustainable employment, self-employment or further training according to Suretrax.

Ruth Lowbridge, Executive Chair of SFEDI and IOEE, said: "We're delighted to present SureTrax with this award. The company's programme is making a real difference to the lives of those striving to get a job in today's competitive marketplace".

Other winners at the event included John Timpson CBE, CEO of the Timpson Group and Jason Holt, CEO of the Holts Group and the Government appointed Small Business Ambassador for Apprenticeships.

ALEX CONGRATULATES LOCAL FIRM ON PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

The unique approach employed by **SureTrax** to help learners maximise their employability and enterprise skills and to engage with employers in a professional manner has been recognised with a high profile national award, and Alex Cunningham has praised the firm for the work they have done.

The Stockton North MP has spoken of SureTrax's work across the Stockton Borough, and he was present to meet with representatives from the organisation at the awards ceremony in Westminster to congratulate the firm on their impressive achievement.

The Stockton-based firm was named Enterprise Learning Product of the year at the 2014 Celebration of Enterprise Awards. And representatives from SureTrax were invited to the House of Lords this week for the annual awards ceremony, hosted by the Institute of Enterprise and Entrepreneurs and the Small Firms Enterprise Development Initiative.

By equipping people with the practical skills and self-belief needed to enter and successfully navigate the labour market, SureTrax aims to help individuals to take control and realise and fulfil their potential, providing the skills and knowledge needed for continued development throughout their life and career.

Alex said:

"I have seen this innovative company – based two doors down from my own office in Stockton's Business Centre – develop and thrive, starting out as a popular company working effectively at the local level before taking their excellent product both nationally and then internationally.

"I've enjoyed the conversations with their staff in the corridors about their latest successes and how they are making a difference to the lives of young people. There is much to be said for providing the tools and confidence necessary for people to be able to help themselves, but getting the right balance of support is crucial to the success of this approach.

"That their work has been recognised with this special award is a great tribute to genuine hard graft, innovative thinking and a commitment to providing a service that is not only different but which their clients benefit from tremendously."