

The waiting is over

When the University of Central Lancashire nominated Cara Henderson for the National Student Awards they had good reason to be confident. Against fierce competition and following the rigours of a challenging final judging panel, Cara was announced the 2010 winner at the 'Best of Best' dinner, held at Claridge's on 21st September.

Cara has just started a year out working with Redrow before returning to UCLAN to continue studying Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management. She received a cheque for £700 and a crystal trophy from Cathy Stewart, Women in Property's National Awards Champion, in front of an audience drawn from the UK's property and construction industry, including national sponsors the Byrne Group and the Homes and Communities Agency.



2010 Winner Cara Henderson
with Cathy Stewart and Lynette Lackey

The judges described Cara as "...very engaging, quietly confident, giving professional, well-structured answers and unique insight into the issues raised which stimulated further debate around the topics..."

The judges debated the result at length and, because the final result was a 'photo finish', we are delighted that they chose to award a highly commended place to Aanya Madhani, studying Land Economy at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. Congratulations to both girls.

We all want the very best



Lynette Lackey
National Chairman

Our 2011 Awards programme will run against a backdrop of Government debate as it aims to encourage more women onto company boards. While this is very much welcomed, we would argue that 'director-making' should be about more than gender or ethnicity, instead about appointing the very best people for the job. Why shouldn't those people be women?

Women in Property is about supporting our members to develop to their best of their abilities and build confidence to get the most out of themselves and their teams. We want our members to be the best people for their board positions because of what they have and can achieve, not because of their gender. I wouldn't be at all surprised to hear one day that our finalists have reached the board. It is their attitude and ambition that our industry needs and on which it will thrive."

Introducing this year's National Student Awards Finalists

Forty-two UK Universities nominated their top students for the 2010 Awards. Congratulations go to all who took part, in particular the eight finalists who joined Cara Henderson at the national final.



Central Scotland Rosie Lewis

Studying Architectural Design, Edinburgh University

Judges' comment

"A great ambassador, here is someone with an idea, a passion and ability"



Midlands Philomena England

Studying Architectural Engineering and Design Management, Loughborough University

Judges' comment

"Excellent mix of engineering and design, confident, interesting answers"



Northern Scotland Hilary Ennos

Studying Architecture at Dundee University

Judges' comment

"Bright and confident, knew her subject, mature and ambitious"



South East Aanya Madhani

Studying Land Economy at University of Cambridge

Judges' comment

"Good understanding of politics and economics, a persuasive speaker, passionate about her subject"



South East Alexandra Redmond

Studying Building Surveying at University of Westminster

Judges' comment

"Honest and articulate, a good understanding of the industry and the challenges that lie ahead"



South Wales Yvonne Wilday

Studying City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University

Judges' comment

"Driven to succeed, a mature and intelligent approach, forward thinking and practical"



South West Sarah Hayball

Studying Architecture and Planning at the University of the West of England, Bristol

Judges' comment

"Drive and ambition to succeed and excel in her chosen subjects, impressive in her presentation, thought and analysis"



Yorkshire and North East Kimia Benam

Studying Architecture in School of the Built Environment, Northumbria University

Judges' comment

"Excellent, natural, ambitious, expresses desire to be the team leader, clear direction of where she is going"

Supporting skills

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) has supported the Women in Property National Student Awards for the last two years. Jayne Crosse from the HCA tells us why.

"The impact of the recession means that the sector is focused on doing more with less. Professionals face continued economic pressure and the evolving political context brings with it challenges around acquiring and deploying emerging skills, knowledge and expertise. To successfully meet local ambitions, we need a diverse set of skills from across the professions including planning, surveying, architecture and engineering to support place making.

As a sector, we must encourage creativity and flexibility; challenge preconceived ideas; and celebrate innovation -

something the younger generation often excels at. The pace of change across the sector is rapid and the skills people need are changing continually so it is imperative that we stay ahead of the game.

It's through both our skills and investment that we help enable local authorities to meet the needs and aspirations of their communities. Which is why it's crucial that we continue to champion the importance of skills by supporting national award schemes, encouraging knowledge transfer and promoting best practice."

Being involved in the judging process of the Women in Property Awards at regional and national level has enabled us to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievements in the built environment. Having people with the right skills to deliver at a local level will be key to the future success of our communities.

womeninproperty.org.uk

Yearn to learn

Women in Property is a committed supporter of educational, personal and professional development. As the National Student Awards enter their fifth year, the following events illustrate the other work with which we are involved, across the UK:

20th Oct	Persuasive Presentations, London
26th Oct	Careers Panel discussion at University of Cambridge
4th Nov	Property & Construction networking at University of Westminster
4th Nov	Ambitions Event, University of the West of England, Bristol
2nd Dec	Influencing your World: Getting Women onto Public Boards, London
7th Dec	Leadership Skills for Women, London
9th Dec	Ladies Bridge with Lilian Baylis Technology School
27th April 2011	Construction Diversity Expo, London
Further details will become available on www.womeninproperty.org.uk/careers	