

# one click

Inside The New Technology Institute in Birmingham



## Creating the right environment for business to work with education



*West Bromwich Building society work with Eastside City Jobs and Fair Cities to recruit new staff.*

### There are many barriers hampering successful relationships between educational institutions and employers.

In recent times many of the historical and attitudinal barriers have been eroded - FE and HE institutions have restructured or created dedicated departments tasked with improving communication and delivering relevant, affordable and timely learning opportunities to business. Improvements have been made in marketing, enquiry handling, training delivery and post course support.

A barrier that many institutions find hard to overcome is providing a suitable business location or environment for training delivery. Many employees are not comfortable attending a college or university for continuing professional development courses. It is not uncommon for delegates to feel uncomfortable, out of place and even intimidated by these educational environments as they are different from the environment they are used to at their place of work.

In order to provide the business community with an environment in which they do feel comfortable and ready to learn and develop, HE and FE providers need to look at places where private training providers teach their delegates and offer similar or better facilities. John Kirk, Head of CPD at UCE Birmingham, comments: "The University can now offer clients the very best of corporate facilities for learning. The NTI in Birmingham is well placed, well equipped and distinct from the normal undergraduate teaching provision. Extensive use of this new facility shows that the University is serious about meeting the demands of clients in the city centre."

The NTI in Birmingham, part of UCE Birmingham, with support from Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council, has opened a purpose-built business to business training, meeting and seminar facility in Birmingham city centre. This facility was

designed in conjunction with all the FE Colleges in Birmingham and Solihull, University of Birmingham and Newman College of Higher Education, led by UCE Birmingham to offer a first class business to business environment for their customers.

The NTI HQ has a boardroom and two IT training suites that can be combined into one larger suite that is ideal for seminars. Every training room has a wall mounted 60-inch plasma screen and internet access for all delegates. Oliver Williams, NTI in Birmingham Programme Manager explains: "The facilities have a real wow factor and delegate feedback has been excellent. Our college and university partners have been very pleased with the facilities as have our commercial customers."

Solihull College have successfully run training programmes at the NTI for both West Midlands Police and West Bromwich Building Society. Amanda Smallman, Workforce Development Programme Manager at Solihull College enthused: "We used the facilities at NTI for a number of reasons. Firstly its location is ideally placed for car, train and bus users. Secondly the technology available and varied room layout suits our purposes perfectly. Thirdly and perhaps most importantly is the excellent customer service we always receive from the NTI team who, without exception, are helpful, polite and always willing to go

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## FREE TRAINING COURSES

**Experts say Open Source software is changing the face of IT - now small and medium sized businesses wanting to gain an edge can take advantage of five more courses this autumn.**

The Open Advantage seminars, to be run in Birmingham city centre at the headquarters of either NTI or Open Advantage in Broad Street, are designed to help delegates benefit swiftly from these 'best of breed' IT solutions.

The one-day sessions are funded by Advantage West Midlands.

### COURSES

- Sept 13** Ready for Business: Hands On with Open Source Desktop
- Sept 28** Fast Track: Linux Administration
- Oct 9** Ruby on Rails: From reinventing the wheel to driving a hotrod
- Oct 12** Fast Track: PHP and MYSQL Training
- Oct 18** Cutting the cost of communications: an introduction to voice over IP

open advantage   
WEST MIDLANDS OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS CENTRE

For full details and booking places visit  
[www.openadvantage.org](http://www.openadvantage.org)



## Dialogue for success in Lower Eastside

This summer The NTI in Birmingham jointly sponsored a series of seminars in the creative Eastside of the city to engage local creative companies in the development of the area and tap into their aspirations for development and growth.

The three Lower Eastside Dialogues were linked events exploring the cultural and creative dimension of the area around the Custard Factory.

The events had both a national and local perspective, featuring Nik Powell from the National Film & TV School, Eddie Berg from the British Film Institute and Franco Bianchini from De Montfort University. A local flavour was added through, among others, Mary Martin Pro Vice-Chancellor of UCE Birmingham, Jonnie Turpie of Maverick and Screen West Midlands, Bob Ghosh and Glenn Howells.

"Topics covered the notion of a creative campus - the role of education in the quarter, the potential for a film venue, the distinctiveness of the architecture and intimate feel of the area, and the way development should follow the grain of the existing buildings," said Roger Shannon of SWISH, a new type of film initiative for Birmingham advising companies and organisations regionally and nationally about the UK film industry.

Some 250 delegates attended the three sessions and support from NTI enabled SWISH to promote events to a wide variety of small firms and stakeholders.

The NTI in Birmingham, whose HQ is in the heart of the creative Eastside area works closely with media professionals in the Midlands through its Apple certified training courses in editing, DVD authoring, motion graphics, composing and sound design.

## Designs on better business

UCE Birmingham launched its new Design and Innovation strategy at the CBI Transformation Through Innovation conference, opened by outgoing Director General, Sir Digby Jones, on June 30.

The new strategy focuses on the opportunity for West Midlands-based businesses to capitalise on the university's design knowledge and know-how to improve business effectiveness, market positioning and product development through an improved design process and infrastructure. Through a collaboration of industry specialists, recognised academics leading in applied research initiatives and projects set up by the region, UCE Birmingham will set up a space to encourage more design-led thinking to take place.

UCE Birmingham already leads on two key initiatives relating to creativity and design; Digital Central and Net Infinity. Digital Central, set up last year seeks to develop the digital media industry. Net Infinity has been established to encourage West Midlands manufacturers of high value added consumer products such as jewellery, furniture, glass and textiles to put design at the heart of their business. Net Infinity is working with the Design Council to launch its Design for Business programme into this cluster. Both projects, managed by UCE Birmingham and funded by Advantage West Midlands, aim to increase the economic impact of these clusters in the West Midlands through design and innovation.

UCE Birmingham will launch Phase 1 of its Centre for Design at the end of this year, followed later by a purpose built facility. The centre will host workshops, training, networking and knowledge transfer to enable West Midlands businesses to take advantage of the latest design thinking.

## New Generation Arts

**The first New Generation Arts Festival, co-ordinated by UCE Birmingham, launched on May 31 with Homer's The Odyssey: From Ithaca With Love and closed with a VIP reception folk concert at CBSO centre. With nearly 700 artists, the festival successfully raised its profile to Birmingham and surrounding population.**

New Generation Arts' primary objectives were to create a national profile for Birmingham's artists and their art activity, improve employability for emerging artists and provide a platform to create new audiences.

In its first year the festival covered 35 exhibitions in 30 venues, featuring 80 UCE alumni including some 600 new artists, many with growing international reputations. Exposed to some 2 million consumers, with £250k worth of press coverage, the festival started to achieve some of its objectives.

During the festival some 600 business professionals attended five VIP events with endorsements from a wide variety of celebrities including Ruby Turner (Later with Jools Holland), Bollywood DJ Nitin Sawhney, Tom Lister (Emmerdale), Jim Crace, Philip Pullman, Sakari Oramo, Frank Skinner and designer Betty Jackson to name but a few.

**Key to the festival's success was the private sector's support in cash and kind. The 2007 festival is already being planned and any businesses interested in playing a part in this high profile event should contact Tracy Gordon on 0121 331 5254 or [tracy.gordon@uce.ac.uk](mailto:tracy.gordon@uce.ac.uk).**



*Designer Betty Jackson introduced the UCE Birmingham Institute of Art and Design Fashion Show at The Bond in Digbeth during the first New Generation Arts Festival.*

## Good news for local teachers!

The NTI in Birmingham has a double dose of good news this summer - Apple UK has awarded NTI's Neil Emery the status of 'distinguished educator', coinciding with the introduction of new Apple training courses for local teachers.

NTI manager Oliver Williams says student numbers have exceeded all expectations.

Building on this success, NTI has particularly recognised the need to up-rate creative skills among teachers. Apple products have been used in education for many years but now new NTI courses will show teachers exciting ways of using digital material in the classroom with a Mac computer and the iLife programmes.

In day-long courses on October 11 and 14, delegates will make a safari video, create their own music track stand alone song or a soundtrack, and compile a DVD with interactive menus.

Course director Neil Emery earned his Apple 'Distinguished Educator' status through running creative workshops with two Birmingham schools - Cardinal Wiseman and College High - together with the 610 Youth Centre. Among the students was 17-year old Emma Travers from Kingstanding who took runner-up place in the national Sony BMG recorded-music competition, known as RMX, with a three-minute track created using Apple Garage Band software.

**Schools and teachers interested in joining the Apple for Teacher days at NTI should phone 0121 202 4800 or e-mail [neil@ntibirmingham.co.uk](mailto:neil@ntibirmingham.co.uk). Those who are part of Education Business Link will be entitled to a 50% subsidy off the course fee.**



*Neil Emery with award winner Emma Travers.*

# Apple growth attracts expert from Canada

A transatlantic visitor came to see what makes the successful Apple-based training partnership between the NTI in Birmingham and UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) work so well.



Professor Jonathan Tyrrell travelled all the way from Canada to see The NTI in Birmingham - he is seen here (front) with Neil Emery.

Since their launch in January, NTI and TIC have seen more than 60 students graduate from Apple training courses. This record attracted the interest of Vancouver-based Apple specialist Professor Jonathan Tyrrell. Originally from Handsworth Wood, he is now an independent film-maker

and artist, having gained an MA in Film and Television Studies from the University of Warwick before emigrating to Canada. Jonathan is assistant Professor in Media- Arts at British Columbia's Emily Carr Institute, a leading Canadian institution focused on creative arts and design, and which promotes the highest standards of innovation and professionalism.

He made a point of visiting the NTI in Birmingham and commented: "I am impressed by the way the two institutions work together to deliver such a wide range of courses from both the technical and creative ends of the spectrum."

Jonathan's own work has recently focused on issues relating to the 'digital moving image' and he is an expert Apple trainer.

# New course launched by NTI

Telford College of Arts and Technology's head of IT-support, Paul Davis, has given a strong endorsement to a new course launched by the NTI in Birmingham. The new programme is for IT-support staff in organisations using Apple server-based networks.

Paul Davis and two members of his IT support team undertook NTI's new programme for computer servers providing a local area network on multiple Apple Macs.



Telford College of Arts and Technology Trainer Jeremy Gledhill (centre) with two of the college's IT support team, Paul Ellis (left) and Andy Mallet, at NTI.

Macs have become the industry-standard for creative and reprographic work in every type of organisation from secondary schools to professional designers. As a result there is a need for IT network teams to be trained in relevant support skills.

Apple and NTI have introduced a course to meet the standards prescribed by the UK's Joint Information Systems Committees (JISC) - the official body that supports ICT teaching, learning, research and administration across the full further and higher education spectrum.

The NTI Birmingham's new course aims to meet the growing, countrywide demand for the training of IT support staff so they can attain Apple Certified status.

16th - 20th October 2006

## 5 DAYS OF APPLE

Bite size courses to give you a taste of Apple

Following the success of the first two 'Five Days of Apple', 'NTI Birmingham' is proud to announce the third instalment. Once again Birmingham's Apple centre of excellence has arranged 5 days of FREE hands on workshops, seminars and demonstrations at its new state of the art facility at Eastside in Birmingham, offering amateurs and professionals an opportunity to experience Apple technology and relevant software for producing digital material and content.

Following these introductory sessions, NTI are offering advanced 2-5 day Apple accredited training courses which will be delivered by UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre at the new facility. Full details of these courses are available at [www.ntibirmingham.co.uk/apple](http://www.ntibirmingham.co.uk/apple)

Date	Morning 10:00-12:00	Afternoon 14:00-16:00	Evening 18:00-21:00	Sponsor
<b>October</b>	<i>Max 12 delegates per session</i>		<i>Max 60 delegates per session</i>	
<b>Monday 16th</b>	Byron Wijayawardena, Apple 2 hour Final Cut workshops	Byron Wijayawardena, Apple 2 hour Final Cut workshops	Dave Bamard, Post Production Technical Supervisor - 'Mirror Mask' film.	
<b>Tuesday 17th</b>	Byron Wijayawardena, Apple 2 hour Motion Workshops	Byron Wijayawardena, Apple 2 hour Motion Workshops	Rob Chiu / The Ronin Motion graphics from the master himself	
<b>Wednesday 18th</b>	Ian Murphy, London Shake School and Jonathan Fawcner, Framestore-cfc 2 hour Shake/compositing	Ian Murphy, London Shake School and Jonathan Fawcner, Framestore-cfc 2 hour Shake/compositing	Framestore-cfc demonstration - creative force behind the new Superman film	
<b>Thursday 19th</b>	Christina Fox (Ravensbourne College) camera techniques workshop	Christina Fox (Ravensbourne College) camera techniques workshop	Debbie Isitt - Director of this year's hit film 'Confetti'	
<b>Friday 20th</b>	Marcelo Oliveira, Apple 2 hour Logic Pro and Soundtrack Pro workshops	Marcelo Oliveira, Apple 2 hour Logic Pro and Soundtrack Pro workshops	Logic in Cutting-edge Urban Production with Stereo Mike	



Authorised Training Centre



For further details contact: Neil Emery, Apple Business Development Manager, The New Technology Institute in Birmingham, 15 Bartholomew Row, Birmingham, B5 5JU  
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# ABBE clarifies future of Home Condition Report

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You may have seen press reports on the apparent confusion surrounding plans for the Home Inspection Pack which will become compulsory next summer for any homeowner wishing to sell their property. One Click is pleased to clarify.



ABBE Project Director Roger Bishop

Midlands-based ABBE - the Awarding Body for the Built Environment, part of UCE Birmingham - has been tasked by the Government

going ahead with one significant change - the HCR would now be phased in on a voluntary, not compulsory basis.

This has left the 4800 candidates who have paid to complete the Diploma in Home Inspection wondering whether the investment they have made is going to be realised.

ABBE wants to clarify the situation and lessen the impact of any delays in the implementation of the Home Condition Report. Project Director Roger Bishop explains: "The details of the announcement from Yvette Cooper state that the Energy Efficiency rating part of the HCR is still going to be compulsory. Qualified and licensed Home Inspectors will still be the only people who can carry out these assessments. We are restructuring both the delivery and testing involved in getting the Home Inspectors diploma to enable candidates to complete the Energy Efficiency Rating qualifications first, so they can start earning as soon as the June 1 deadline passes in 2007, whilst completing the rest of the diploma in Home Inspection."

ABBE is also looking at other ways to work with the industry to ensure

the implementation of the Home Condition Report. These include developing a Home Inspectors Valuation qualification in conjunction with the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

"One of the regular criticisms of the HCR is that mortgage lenders are still going to ask for a separate valuation survey, paid for by the buyer before there is a mortgage offer," Roger says. "By including valuation in the Home Condition Report we hope to make the industry keener to adopt HCRs voluntarily as well as provide additional career opportunities for the licensed home inspector."

that extra mile to make the training experience memorable. I would thoroughly recommend the NTI to anyone looking for room hire."

Sutton Coldfield College through the Centre of Business Excellence in Birmingham plan to run a series of management development training courses for MITIE, one of the UK's leading support services companies, starting in September. Andrew Davis, Business Development Manager at Sutton Coldfield College, explains why he chose the NTI in Birmingham to host the training: "Our client MITIE expects high quality training delivered in convenient and suitable surroundings. By combining the excellence of our training delivery staff with the environment the NTI in Birmingham provides, we are able to offer MITIE a top class solution to their training requirements."

to develop the Diploma in Home Inspection. ABBE has been running online examination sessions for Home Inspectors at The NTI in Birmingham since the beginning of the year, and invigilators and candidates have been delighted with the facilities and environment.

The new system for homeowners will involve qualified, licensed home inspectors producing the Home Condition Report (HCR). The HCR is a key part of the home information pack (HIP) which will be compulsory from June 1 2007 for anyone selling a house. The HCR can only be carried out by a qualified and licensed Home Inspector.

This summer there has been speculation about these arrangements and on July 18 Housing and planning Minister Yvette Cooper announced the Home Inspection Pack was still

## Our men in Prague

Three delegates from Contact KE and Steve Harding from UCE Birmingham's Corporate Development Centre attended the European Corporate Learning Circle's 13th international conference, Creating the Capacity for Change, in Prague.

Contact KE, who share premises with The NTI in Birmingham at Bartholomew Row, aims to build productive partnerships between universities and the business community, creating real commercial advantage.

Their delegation included Richard Riley, whose presentation to the conference organised by the European Consortium for the Learning Organisation (ECLO), was entitled 'Liberating Knowledge'. Steve Harding also presented 'New Spaces for Learning' and both received very positive feedback, including for UCE ideas for developing its Learning Spaces project.

The two-day conference, which attracted participants from as far afield as India and Australia, focused on engagement and being engaged with people from different areas of work and life.

Make sure you receive one click every quarter

Send your details – and those colleagues who should be on our mailing list – to NTI today

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Leading learning and skills



Project Part-Financed by the European Union  
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The next big thing in television is High Definition and Media Skills in Birmingham is delivering a series of new, unique training courses aimed at professionals preparing for the HD era.

Assisted by cameraman Alan Duxbury, who recently received a second Certificate of Merit for Aboriginal Britain in Ray Mears' Bushcraft series, the courses at Screen Media Lab at the Custard Factory cover an introduction to HD, camera skills and lighting for HD.

High Definition, launched in the UK this summer with BBC coverage of the World Cup, offers viewers much sharper pictures and requires different equipment and filming techniques.

Later this year The NTI in Birmingham, UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre and Media Skills will collaborate in producing a joint brochure focusing on HD and Apple training courses.

For HD course details see [www.mediaskills.org.uk](http://www.mediaskills.org.uk).