



















FURNITURE CLOUD Sponsor of the Education Sector **Business Engagement and**

Employability Award



At this year's Derby Telegraph Business Awards there are more categories than ever.

In total, 16 awards will be handed out at the lavish ceremony at Derby College's Roundhouse, on Wednesday, June 5. Among them is a new category - the Education Sector Business Engagement and Employability Award

This award aims to recognise educational bodies from the region who focus on building and developing employability skills. These include schools, further education and higher education institutions.

The company sponsoring and judging it is Furniture Cloud, a business that supplies fixed and loose furniture to the education, office, contract and healthcare sectors.

The firm's innovative design team has a proven track record of exceeding expectations and incorporating clients' timescales and budgets while not compromising on quality.

Managing director Carl Swift said: "We work closely with many of our region's education providers and in doing so we experience the learning environment and ethos they provide for pupils and students, while also gaining an insight into how they

"This award is there to recognise the efforts of those individuals and teams that are responsible for building and developing the skills which are essential to their employability, building links with businesses, and ensuring their students have the best shot at a successful career."

Over the years, Furniture Cloud has continuously striven to support the regional business community.

Carl said: "Many of our customers are located within the East Midlands and, by working with them, we are supporting growth within this busiwell-planned work spaces that make Sponsor of the Sales it easier for people to complete tasks more quickly and effectively, work together more collaboratively and creatively, and have a positive effect on their health, well-being, and

engagement. "We are committed to serving Midlands businesses and the educational community by offering value for money furniture environments from office space to class-based

learning solutions. "We pride ourselves on our honest approach by listening to and understanding our customer's requirements and expectations."





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Awards backers demonstrate their support for our region's economy

Pre-event and venue sponsor















and Marketing Award

Sales and marketing is important for at DNS, said: "We chose to sponsor businesses grow through the any business looking to diversify and the Sales and Marketing Award at increased use of digital technology. explore new markets.

have excelled in doing this will be ness community by offering them **DOCUMENT NETWORK SERVICES** honoured through the Sales and Marketing Award.

This year, the award is being sponsored and judged by Document Network Services (DNS). DNS provides a variety of services tions which help to boost local

that help increase capabilities, economy improve efficiencies and reduce costs of business' digital systems. This includes supplying printers, all of the entrants the best luck." photocopiers, computers and tele-

Darren Marsh, managing director business community by helping this year's Derby Telegraph Business He said: "Our team help busi-And at this year's Derby Telegraph Awards as we believe in recognising nesses in Derbyshire to embrace the

the many talented individuals and companies in Derbyshire's business

"Sales and marketing are essential in any business and we firmly believe this is an area that deserves to be celebrated."

This is the first time DNS has come on board as a sponsor of the Derby Telegraph Business Awards and Darren said he was looking forward to the awards night.

He said: "We have sponsored this year's Derby Telegraph Business Awards as we strongly support the local business community and believe in celebrating the achievements and successes of the companies that make positive contribu-

"This is the first time we have sponsored the awards and we wish

According to Darren, his company makes its own contribution to local

Business Awards, companies that the achievements and successes of digital transformation through a full



stirland

Derby, Telegraph

AWARDS

suite of products and services that help to increase capabilities, improve efficiencies and reduce costs.

"Utilising our proven process, our specialists will conduct a thorough assessment of a business environment to identify improvements before designing and implementing a new solution to deliver three critical business advantages - cost reduction, control and convenience.

"This gives our clients the freedom to focus on the core areas of their business with the confidence that our team are pro-actively working to maintain and improve the technology that their work relies

■ Entries for this year's awards have now closed and the judges are currently sifting through all of the applications to come up with a shortlist of finalists and select the winners, who will be announced at the awards night in June, which will be hosted by comedian Mark Dolan and badminton star Gail Emms MBE.

For more information about this vear's awards call Aman Dhesi at event organisers Champions (UK) plc on 08453 313031 or e-mail

strides in this important sector. Judges will look at the finalists' dedication to developing something truly creative across a

have performed outstandingly throughout the year. The winner will have developed a strong business presence with proof of achievements including strong market share, economic turnaround and innovative approach. Judges will be looking for a business that can be universally admired for its commercial practice and dedication to success.

COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Derby College

This celebrates businesses that

THE CATEGORIES

SME BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Sponsored by

the University of Derby This award is for companies in the region that normally employ no more than 75 full-time staff and have a proven record of success. This award celebrates companies that are integral to the economy Judges will consider the prospective growth and development opportunities for the future of each business.

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Smith Partnership This award honours the region's op employers. The finalists will have demonstrated strong investment in their employees as well having a reward scheme and other key employee benefits. It's time to reward them, as they do their staff. They will be recognised as one of the best places to work ir the area.

START-UP BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Sponsored by Wheeldon Brothers

This award is for companies that have been in operation for a maximum of three years as of January 1. It recognises one of the region's brightest new businesses and the contribution it will make to the county in the future. Judges will be tasked with analysing business plans, achievements to date and potential for growth within the next few years.

BUSINESS ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR Sponsored by HUUB

This award celebrates the individuals behind some of the most innovative and successful businesses in Derbyshire. Looking at the individual achievements of the director, the results returned by their business and their unique approach to the marketplace they operate in, judges will select finalists that best represent the business spirit of the region.

CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS **AND DIGITAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR Derby City Council**

This award will choose from Derbyshire's wealth of creative businesses to recognise the company that has made major

variety of industries.

APPRENTICE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR Sponsored by

This award recognises the businesses that are providing valuable opportunities for young jobseekers in the area. Over recent vears, the vounger generation has struggled in the job market, and this category celebrates employers who are supporting the youth of today. The finalists will have gone above and beyond to take on a number of apprentices and provide them with the support and training needed to kick-start their careers.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AWARD The companies nominated for this

award will have demonstrable strengths in service excellence. business growth, innovation, technology, training and personal development. This category covers a wide range of professional services, including legal, financial, retail, hospitality and general services, to name but a few. Judges will be looking for a service company that has achieved and succeeded measurable business

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD Sponsored by Lubrizol

The finalists for this award will have demonstrated considerable dedication to corporate, social and ethical responsibility, providing the community with the many positive outcomes of their commercial activity. Judges will focus on businesses that have contributed substantially to the community through various means including society-led projects, aiding economic regeneration and supporting local suppliers.

NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATION AWARD Sponsored by Sellick Partnership

This award celebrates the best of the county's many not-for-profit organisations that make a difference to the local community. Recognising the excellent performance of the public sector, not-for-profit and charitable organisations in the area, the award will be judged on the organisations' ability to maintain financial performance, as well as looking at the cultural influence of the business and the potential benefits it brings.

CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD Sponsored by **WDS**

This award recognises those companies that make customer

service a priority in their day-to-day operations. Judges will be looking for a company that can demonstrate how they deliver excellent customer service and can showcase this with testimonials and through their methods.

EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING AWARD Sponsored by **Janine Edwards Wealth**

This award celebrates the company that has upheld the manufacturing traditions of the local area, while continuing to strengthen the regional economy. All finalists will demonstrate a dedication to manufacturing excellence with emphasis placed on quality, sales performance, sustainability and

SALES AND MARKETING AWARD Sponsored by

DNS This award recognises companies in the region which have demonstrated sales and marketing excellence over the year. AJudges will examine the innovation and creativity of the business, as well as its ability to find solutions for sales and marketing challenges.

LEADERSHIP TEAM OF THE YEAR Sponsored by **Thomas International**

This award recognises the inspiring leaders who head up a successful organisation, while at the same time inspiring and empowering their staff by investing time into their people. Innovation, creativity, and determination are just some of the key traits that the judges will be looking for in these applications.

EDUCATION SECTOR BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY AWARD Sponsored by **Furniture Cloud**

This award is for educational bodies, including schools, further education and higher education providers, which constantly strive to make their students highly employable in a competitive employment industry. It aims to recognise those which focus on building and developing skills that are essential to their employability, building links with businesses, and ensuring their students have the best shot at a successful career.

EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION AWARD This award celebrates a company

that has made strides in their field, creating or introducing something new within the industry, while continuing to strengthen the regional economy. The finalists will be selected and judged on the quality of their products and services, their dedication to sales performance, their commitment to innovation and the sustainability of their business

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