

Media Release

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Enterprise challenge £20k winner announced

A business aiming to revolutionise science education for children has been awarded the accolade of Lancashire Enterprise Champion at an event to celebrate a county-wide entrepreneurship competition.

Lancashire County Council's Give it a Go: The £5k Challenge culminated with a celebratory lunch, and Rossendale business Flashbang Science received a £20,000 award to take their business to the next level.

Claire Holt, who leads the Flashbang Science team, said: "Winning this award now enables us to move forward to the next exciting phase of the business and the cash injection will enable some powerful business development ideas to be accelerated.

"The primary focus will always be our passion for bringing science to life for children. Winning "Give it a Go" has given us the confidence and validation to drive the business to the next level."

The competition was launched last year to encourage entrepreneurs across the county to develop their community business ideas, entries have ranged from developing motivational resources for dyslexia sufferers to starting a commercial worm farm.

A dozen district winners, who each received £5,000 to help them kick-start their idea, were also honoured at the event.

South Ribble business BoxStar, brainchild of Penwortham resident John Rigby, also received a Highly Commended award from the judges for the commitment he and his team had shown to developing their recycling aid idea throughout the competition.

John said: "I am absolutely thrilled to receive such recognition, especially as the idea is still in the development stage. We had the original prototype stolen and had to start from scratch to get where we are now so I feel we have been rewarded for hard work and determination.

"The whole competition has boosted my confidence and self belief - it truly has been a great opportunity."

Four judges had to whittle down the twelve district winners to a single team whose idea had showed the most promise. They were:

- Norman Tenray, Lancashire Business Person of the Year 2009 and Managing Director of OBAS UK Ltd, Lancashire Business of the Year 2010.
- Kirsty Henshaw, founder of Worthenshaws Ltd. Kirsty appeared on the BBC's Dragon's Den with her allergen-free frozen deserts, securing a £65,000 investment.
- Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council.
- Sarah Bevan-Fischer, from Bevan Fischer Consulting and a champion for enterprise in the region.

Norman Tenray said: "It is rare to find such a focused and exciting initiative that will potentially make a significant difference to the community.

"Give it a Go has been an inspirational catalyst to launch new ideas, vision, entrepreneurship and leadership which may have otherwise been overlooked. I am proud to be part of it."

Lancashire County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Economic Development presented the businesses with their awards. He said: "Lancashire is full of enterprising and innovative people. This campaign has successfully captured that enthusiasm and used it to create economic and social benefits across the county.

"From the time of the industrial revolution, Lancashire has buzzed with entrepreneurial spirit. That spirit continues – we have world-leading engineering and creative industries throughout the county.

"All these businesses began with an ambition, though; and that is what 'Give it a Go: The £5k Challenge' has helped to harness. Along with the drive and aspirational spirit of the competitors, we have seen the launch of some fantastic new start ups and we are keen to support and promote these."

For further information on 'Give It a Go: The 5k Challenge' please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/giveitago, call 01772 536801 or email giveitago@lancashire.gov.uk.

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For more information contact Dean Gallagher at Slater on 01254 295580.

Issued by: Slater

T: 01254 295580

F: 01254 295581

E: info@weareslater.co.uk