

European Social Fund Regional Award Winner West Midlands

Graham Kenny

Award presented by: Stella Pearce, Department for Work and Pensions, European Social Fund Division

Nominated by: Clare Chick from Stafford College

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Graham Kenny first got back into learning by taking French, so he and his wife could get more out of their holidays. A joiner for 25 years, he was offered the opportunity to work with trainees at Indigo Training. Finding this was an obvious next step in his career, Graham wanted a teaching qualification to help him in this new career. He was advised that he should update his specialist trade qualifications first.

Combining two evenings a week at college with the full-time working with trainees and part-time self-employment as a joiner, he has now taken NVQs in Wood Occupations at levels 1, 2 and 3, as well as a City & Guilds 3792 certificate in adult literacy at level 2. Graham is now preparing to start a teacher-training course at college.

Graham says, 'I really enjoy working with the youngsters. There are fewer jobs available at the low-skilled end of the trade these days, and I teach them the importance of getting as much training as possible all through your working life.'
'Learning has widened my opportunities in so many ways – from getting more out of holidays abroad to changing my career. It keeps your brain alive and it brought me into contact with a whole new set of people, of all ages and backgrounds. I really

enjoy the whole ethos of coming to college. I like being in the workshops, enjoyed the banter with the tutors, and liked it when I could help the other lads on my course. It has never been a chore, it's always been fun.'

