



A **Beacon** for the future

**The College of
North East London
CONEL**



Paul Head
Principal and Chief Executive

Welcome

The purpose of this report is to look back over the year in review, but the real story of 2008–09 at CONEL is about a College looking to the future. That future begins on 1 August, when CONEL officially merges with Enfield College to create the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London.

The merger was first proposed towards the end of 2008. Since then, the staff and governors of both colleges have invested their skills and energy to help us move forward through the various stages of consultation and preparation. It is thanks to their effort that we are now poised at the beginning of the life of an exciting new College for London. As the Principal of that College, I am delighted that our hard work has brought us this far, and excited at what the future holds for our College, our learners and our communities.

Even as work towards the merger accelerated, the life of a vibrant, successful College committed to quality continued at CONEL, as the review of the year's news on pages 4–5 so vividly illustrates. The uniting theme of the stories here is our aim of achieving excellence in everything we do. This year, our success has been confirmed by two highly prestigious awards: our Beacon status (see opposite) and the Training Quality Standard for our work with employers.

The first year of the existence of our new college will bring with it new challenges. This report is proof that we are ready and equipped to tackle them, and to succeed.

Our strategic objectives

1. Ensure equality of opportunity, secure progression and support learners to achieve above average levels of performance by 2006 and sustain that improvement to 2011.
2. Encourage take up by learners, increase demand for and widen participation in learning, from all communities and businesses.
3. Increase the engagement of employers in workforce development, with an emphasis on basic skills and the key sectors, through working with employers and trade unions.
4. Put lifelong learning for college staff at the heart of improving the learner experience.
5. Ensure the scope and range of our provision and services are appropriate and developed to meet learner, employer and community needs.
6. Ensure the quality of all our provision and services improves and becomes consistently good to be excellent by 2006 and sustain that improvement to 2011.



CONEL: A Beacon College

On Monday 26 January 2009, CONEL officially became a Beacon College when Sion Simon MP, Minister for Further Education, presented the award to Paul Head at a ceremony in central London. We had been invited to apply for the prestigious accolade after our excellent Ofsted inspection of May 2008.

Beacon status provides public recognition for learning providers that consistently deliver outstanding teaching and learning, supported by strong and effective leadership and management. It is awarded by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service, and confirms our status as one of the leading colleges in the UK. After our merger with Enfield College, our Beacon status will be inherited by the newly formed College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London.

As a Beacon College, we now have an active role to play, sharing our expertise with colleagues across the further education sector. Areas in which we boast sector-leading examples of best practice include:

Improving Learner Achievement

Our Transforming Learning strategy for training and supporting our teaching staff has led to sustained improvements in quality and results.

Working with Employers

Our innovative and responsive work with businesses of all sizes has earned us the Training Quality Standard.

Educational and Social Inclusion

We support our learners with initiatives such as a peer learning mentor system and a comprehensive programme of enrichment activities.

Governors

External

Mrs Judy Bax
(Vice Chair from 23 Oct 2008)

Mr Keith Brown
(Chairman)

Mr Leslie Brissett
(Vice Chair to 23 Oct 2008)

Mr Mark Cooke

Mr Fred Ellis

Cllr Del Goddard

Cllr George Meehan

Mr Shefik Mehmet

Rev Nims Obunge

Ms Adrienne Rudkin

Cllr Liz Santry

Ms Claire Sullivan

Dr Michael Wing

Staff

Ms Gale Ortanca

Mr Hitesh Patel

Students

Ms Muni Omar

Mr Ahmed Abdallah

Principal and Chief Executive

Paul Head

A year of good news



November 2008: Setting the Standard for Training

The College hosted the UK's biggest business breakfast as part of its Colleges Week activities, and we were presented with our newly-won Training Quality Standard award as part of the event.

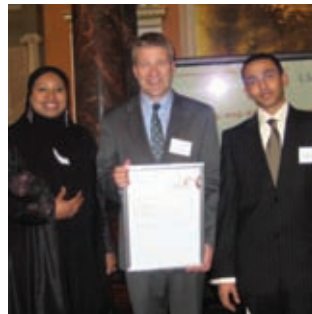
CONEL is among the first colleges to receive the new award, which followed a rigorous assessment of our training provision for employers. It assures employers working with CONEL that they can be confident of receiving first rate training to enhance and update their employees' skills.



January 2009: CONEL Learners Take Message of Non-Violence to Westminster

Eighteen learners from our BRACE group (Building Relationships Across Cultures Everywhere) visited the Houses of Parliament as part of an event organised by the Peace Alliance, debating the question 'Can Non-Violence be Cool?'

CONEL learner Ahmed Abdalla said of the group's meeting with Dawn Butler MP: 'I think this type of event is really important. We get to see how politics works, and the politicians get to hear about these issues from ground-level – the perspective of real young people in London.'



January 2009: We are a Beacon College!

CONEL was awarded Learning and Skills Beacon Status, a highly prestigious award that officially recognises the very top performers in further education. It confirms our status as one of the leading Colleges in the UK. CONEL is only the fifth General Further Education College in London to achieve this distinction.

CONEL's Principal Paul Head said: 'This is a significant public recognition of the outstanding performance of the College and the contribution of its governors, staff and learners'.



February 2009: CONEL extends its support for unemployed people

Tottenham MP David Lammy opened a new service designed to help people made redundant during the economic downturn.

At the launch of the Skills Employment Training service, Principal Paul Head said: 'At a time of recession, public organisations need to think what else they can do to support their local communities'.

David Lammy commented: 'As always, CONEL is working with employers and the community to train and support people to deal with the current employment challenges.'

The stories below will give you a flavour of the year under review (1 August 2008 – 31 July 2009). As you will see, 2008–09 was a year of awards for CONEL, with two highly prestigious distinctions bolstering our ever-rising reputation. We can now proudly boast both the Beacon and the Training Quality Standard. Other stories reflect the

excellent work that goes on every day to make up the life of our College – from supporting our community through the recession to the achievements of our talented learners.

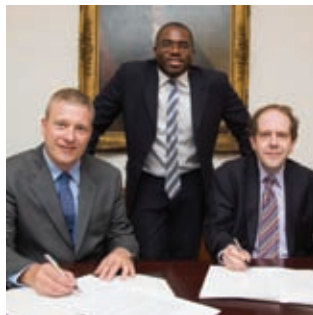
The full versions of these and many more stories can be found on our website www.conel.ac.uk



April 2009: Hairdressing Masterclass Weaves Glamour with Graft

The College's aspiring young hairdressers were given a masterclass in cutting and colouring by two internationally-acclaimed stylists. Andy Kyriacou and Tamara Doncova, of Lexington's Salon, came to the College as part of a national scheme to encourage youngsters on vocational courses to move 'from competence to excellence'.

Tamara, a CONEL alumna, who has since gone on to win awards and compete in international competitions, said: 'It's great that CONEL's learners already practice on paying clients in the Salon. Hands-on experience is crucial in this industry.'



June 2009: CONEL Joins Forces with Leading University

CONEL agreed an official partnership with Birkbeck, University of London, giving our students a direct route to one of the country's top universities.

The Right Honourable David Lammy MP, who oversaw the signing of the agreement said: 'By this link between Further and Higher Education, CONEL and Birkbeck have pushed out the boundaries of widening participation.'

CONEL Principal Paul Head said: 'This is an exciting partnership for us, and most importantly, it represents a fantastic opportunity for our learners.'



June 2009: Practical Makes Perfect for George

CONEL's George Ogunrinola was named London VQ Young Learner of the Year 2009, recognising his dedication to vocational learning and huge success in his chosen field.

George said: 'I'm so happy to get this recognition, but also for my tutor, Maria Lopez, who has put so much hard work in to my course. John Kerr, a member of the judging panel, added: '[George] is living proof that there are many paths to success and an inspiration to us all.'



July 2009: Trainee Accountants Profit from Local Businessman's Bursary

The first annual Ray and Associates Accountancy Bursary was presented to CONEL learners Kennedy Wabwire and Chen Xuan Ying, who each received a cheque for £250.

Presenting the awards, local Practising Chartered Management Accountant Ray Ankrah said: 'This is a proud day for me. Having lived in Tottenham for nearly 20 years I feel a strong urge to put something back. CONEL has excellent accountancy courses, and I'm looking forward to fostering new talent over the years to come.'



The financial picture

Our financial position remained robust with cash balances of £15 million and general reserves of £26 million at 31 July 2009.

The major source of income came from Learning and Skills Council (LSC) with funding of £42 million, accounting for 80% of total income for the year.

A full income and expenditure analysis is as follows:

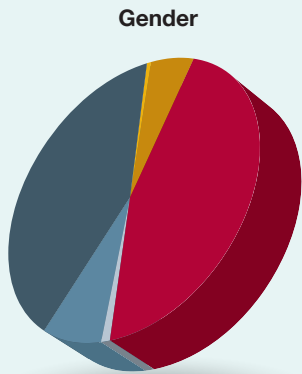
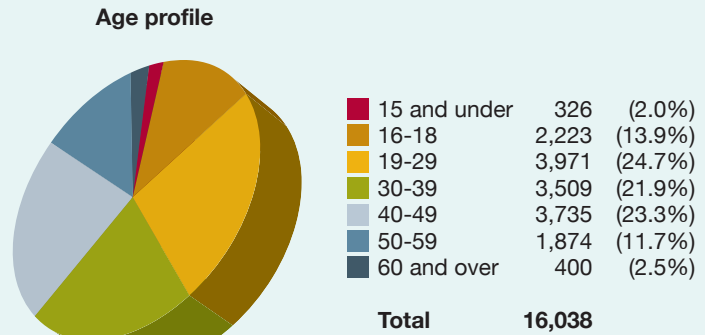
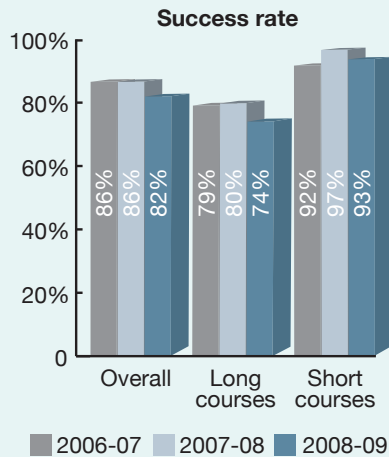
Income	£000s
LSC funding	31,505
Tuition fees and education contracts	2,047
Other grant income	175
Other income	6,835
Investment income	303
Total income	40,865
Expenditure	
Staff costs	22,719
Other operating costs	15,266
Depreciation	2,027
Total expenditure	40,012
Surplus for the year	853

The College holds financial health status under the Framework for Excellence 'outstanding'.

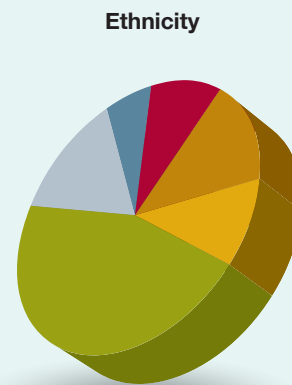
Following our inspection in May 2008, Ofsted praised our financial management as 'exemplary'. In the same month, following an LSC audit into our financial management and governance framework, we achieved the best possible outcome – Grade 1 Full Assurance.

Further detailed information regarding income, expenditure and financial out-turn can be found in the Report and Financial Statement for 1 August 2008 to 31 July 2009, at www.conel.ac.uk

Our learners: key facts and figures for 2008–2009



Female		
15 and under	122	(0.8%)
16-18	915	(5.7%)
19+	7,046	(43.9%)
Male		
15 and under	204	(1.3%)
16-18	1,308	(8.2%)
19+	6,443	(40.2%)
Total	16,038	



Asian and Asian British	1,674	(10.5%)
African (Black and Black British)	2,314	(14.4%)
Caribbean (Black and Black British)	1,543	(9.6%)
White	7,340	(45.7%)
Mixed and Other	2,230	(13.9%)
Not known/not provided	937	(5.8%)
Total	16,038	

Mission

We will provide an opportunity for everybody to participate and learn, realise their full potential and raise their achievement, by providing learner-centred high quality education, training and excellent services, in a professional and friendly manner.

Vision

CONEL will be the preferred choice for our learners. Through excellent teaching and learning we will develop the potential of our communities and empower local people to take advantage of employment, business and lifelong learning opportunities.

Values

- A positive and friendly environment
- A participative and supportive culture
- Others' opinions and ideas
- Diversity and equality
- Respect for each other
- Fairness and consistency
- The chance to learn and achieve our full potential

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