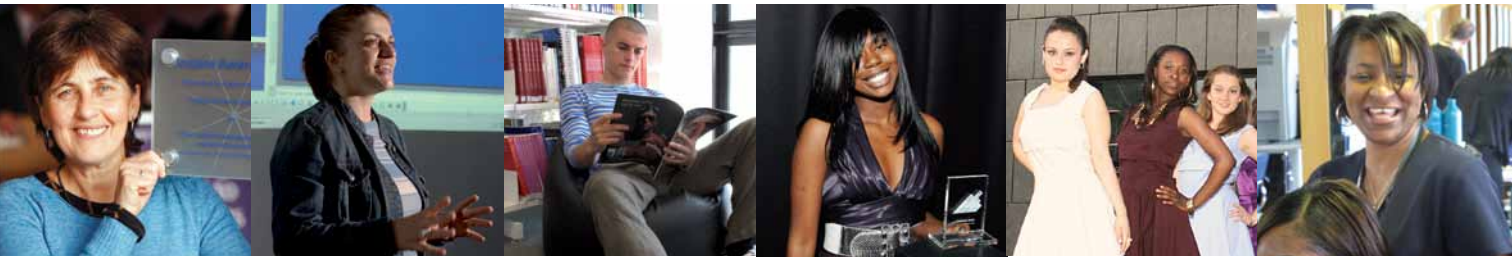


Annual Review 2007–2008



Raising the standard

**The College of
North East London**
CONEL



Paul Head
Principal and Chief Executive

Welcome

Mission statements can sometimes seem to be rather irrelevant documents – written by committee, with the best of intentions, but disconnected from the everyday life of an organisation. Not so with ours. Throughout the pages of this review, in the statistics and the overview of the year’s news, you can find the evidence that our mission, vision, values and objectives are woven through the life of the College.

For instance, part of our vision is to ‘empower local people to take advantage of employment’. Such aims are easy enough to set, but the College’s scheme to take household maintenance taster courses for women out into our local community (see page 4) is just one example of the work that has had a real and direct effect on people’s lives.

Setting ambitious targets is central to driving CONEL towards excellence, but targets in themselves are not enough. This is why the real story of our year can be found in the glowing report produced by Ofsted’s inspectors in July 2008 (see opposite page). Our staff, governors and learners should be proud of the distance we have come on our journey. Our next target is a simple one – to become outstanding in every way.



Ofsted confirms vision to excel

In May 2008 the inspection was an important opportunity to measure our progress in recent years, and it was clear from Ofsted’s report that our programme of continuous improvement is making a major difference.

Published in July, their report praised our ‘**highly responsive curriculum that fully meets the priorities and needs of employers and the local community**’, and at the same time highlighted key areas for special mention:

- **Outstanding** leadership, management and governance
- **Outstanding** social and educational inclusion
- **Outstanding** capacity to improve
- **Exemplary** financial management
- **Excellent** support and guidance for our learners
- **Very high success** rates for almost all groups of learners
- **Very productive** strategic partnerships with employers and other organisations

Our approach has always been to drive up standards across the board, and Ofsted also helped to pinpoint where further work is needed. We have all the key ingredients to ensure that our constant drive for excellence is not simply a vision, but a realistic and achievable goal.

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 2008.
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.

Governors

External

- Judy Bax
- Leslie Brissett (Vice Chair)
- Keith Brown (Chair)
- Mark Cooke
- Fred Ellis
- Cllr Del Goddard
- Cllr George Meehan

- Shefik Mehmet
- Rev Nims Obunge
- Adrienne Rudkin
- Cllr Liz Santry
- Claire Sullivan
- Dr Michael Wing

Staff

- Gale Ortanca
- Hitesh Patel

Students

- Muni Omar
- Iola Isaac
- Principal and Chief Executive**
- Paul Head

Nicole (Nicky) Harrison CBE
1936 – 2008
Governor 1993 – 2000
Chair of Governors 2000 - 2008

Following the sad death of Nicky Harrison, I would like to record our thanks for the outstanding contribution she made to the College. She is greatly missed by us all.

Paul Head

A year of good news



December 07: Rewarding achievement, celebrating excellence

Antoinette Senior receives her Excellence Award for Key Skills, one of 40 learners and staff who received awards at our annual event held at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham.

Guest of honour for the evening - which also featured performances by singer Lady K and the Divulge Dance Academy - was Dele Ogun, founder and senior partner of Ogun@Law, a commercial law firm in the City.



January 08: Minister praises us for being "ahead of the game..."

John Denham MP, Secretary of State at the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), visiting CONEL to meet employers, said: "We are creating a culture of learning and we're working with CONEL to promote this. The challenge to colleges is to change. CONEL is ahead of the game on this, working with Train to Gain and having developed strong partnerships with employers."



February 08: Charmaine's award takes training to the community

Charmaine Brouard, our Neighbourhood Learning Co-ordinator, celebrates winning a £10,000 Capita 'Inspire Award' for the College. The money was used to launch a programme of courses out in the community to help local women acquire practical skills to tackle household repairs and maintenance.



February 08: Vula Malinga samples pampering at The Salon

Our own West End-style hair salon is opened by songstress Vula Malinga (pictured here with Principal, Paul Head) who has had chart-topping singles with dance band, Basement Jaxx. 'The Salon', a stylish professional space with state-of-the-art equipment, provides a range of treatments including pedicures, facials, waxing and massage.



May 08: Stanford fellowship for Abebe

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) lecturer Abebe Gellaw wins a prestigious journalism fellowship to California's Stanford University, one of America's top academic institutions. Abebe is a Reuters-trained journalist and former prisoner of conscience from Ethiopia, now living in exile in London. He is the first Ethiopian to win the Knight International Fellowship.



June 08: Young designers showcase their talent

A talented group of 14 to 16 year old Haringey school students - who also work one day a week at CONEL as Young Apprentices - showcase their fashion creations and innovative designs for new computer games. Held at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre, the 'New Movement' event was produced entirely by the students, who set up a company to run it and even controlled the budget.



July 08: Giving something back

Former CONEL student, Emmanuel Okyere-Boakye, who is now studying Medicinal Chemistry at University College London (UCL), returns to College to provide guidance and support to current learners as part of our pioneering mentoring service. Emmanuel is clear about our part in his academic journey. "If it wasn't for CONEL, I wouldn't be where I am. It has really stretched me," he said.



July 08: Hairdresser Michelle wins gold

Michelle Gooden secures the top spot in the UK Skills Challenge for the London region. Talented stylist Michelle entered at intermediate level and produced two styles: a male haircut in the barbering category and a 'hair-up' female creation. Competitors worked under pressure to produce distinctive styles, executed to a high standard of skill, and Michelle's work came out on top.

To give a flavour of the year under review (1 August 2007 - 31 July 2008), we've chosen a handful of good news stories to share with you. Below you can read more about the Ministerial visit, the opening of our brand new hairdressing and beauty salon,

an international fellowship to a top US university for one of our lecturers, and much more. Our website www.conel.ac.uk is a good source of news, views and information so please keep visiting to see what's happening at the College.

The financial picture

Our financial position remained robust with cash balances of £7.1 million and general reserves of £19 million at 31 July 2008. The operational surplus for the year was £781,000 on turnover of £33 million.

The major source of income came from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) with funding of £29 million, accounting for 88% of total income for the year.

A full income and expenditure analysis is as follows:

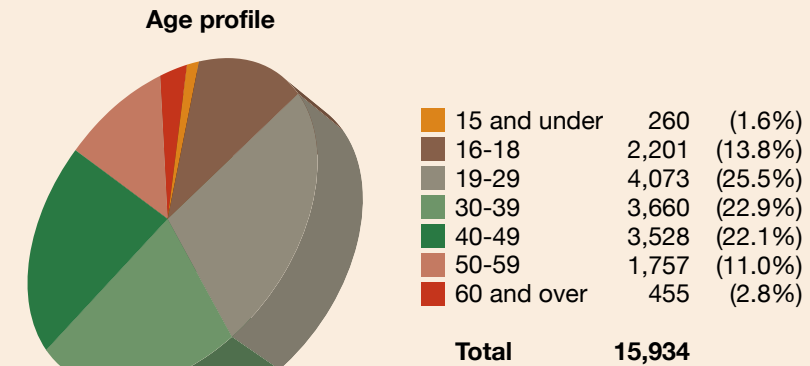
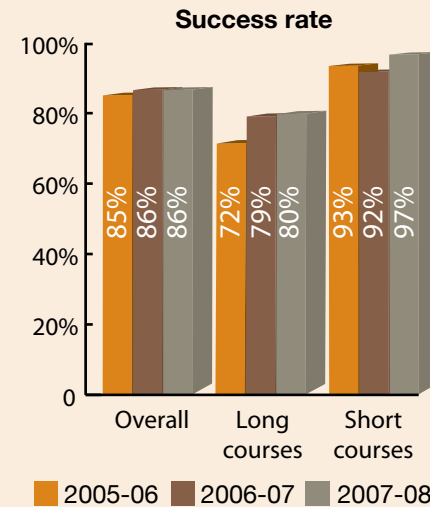
	£000s
Income	
LSC funding	29,099
Tuition fees and education contracts	1,670
Other income	1,848
Investment income	365
Total income	32,982
Expenditure	
Staff costs	20,322
Other operating costs	10,030
Depreciation	1,849
Total expenditure	32,201
Surplus for the year	781

The College continues to hold LSC Category A financial health status and under the Framework for Excellence our financial health is 'outstanding'.

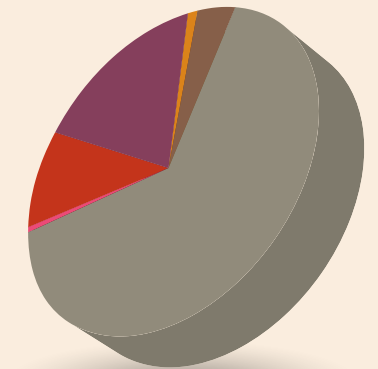
Following our inspection in May 2008, Ofsted praised our financial management as 'exemplary'. In the same month, following an LSC audit into our financial management and governance framework, we achieved the best possible outcome - Grade 1 Full Assurance.

Further detailed information regarding income, expenditure and financial out-turn can be found in the Report and Financial Statement for 1 August 2007 to 31 July 2008, at www.conel.ac.uk

Our learners: key facts and figures for 2007-2008

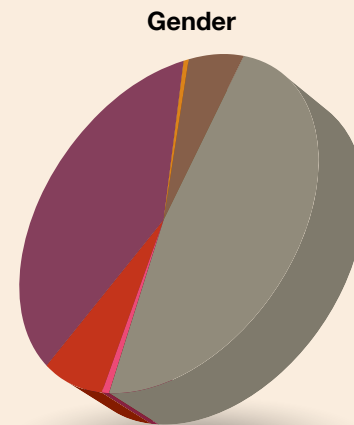


Part-time and full-time attendance

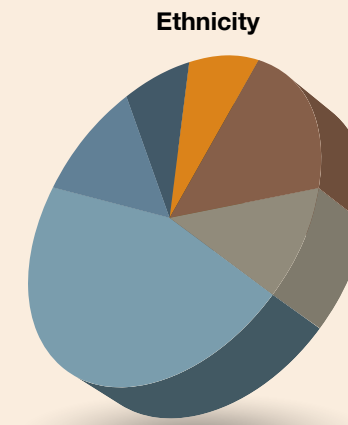


Part-time		
15 and under	201	(1.3%)
16-18	680	(4.3%)
19+	10,443	(66.8%)
Full-time		
15 and under	59	(0.4%)
16-18	1,521	(9.7%)
19+	2,732	(17.5%)
Total	15,636	

Note: The small discrepancy in the figures for 'total' students in the sets of data shown is due to the way data is collected and categorised. Every effort has been made to ensure all statistics are as accurate as possible.



Female		
15 and under	110	(0.7%)
16-18	1,000	(6.4%)
19+	7,282	(46.6%)
Male		
15 and under	150	(1.0%)
16-18	1,201	(7.7%)
19+	5,893	(37.7%)
Total	15,636	



Asian and Asian British	1,307	(8.4%)	White	7,095	(45.8%)
African (Black and Black British)	2,754	(17.8%)	Mixed and Other	1,678	(10.8%)
Caribbean (Black and Black British)	1,570	(10.1%)	Not known/not provided	1,102	(7.1%)
Total			Total	15,506	

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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