

PRESS RELEASE
Tuesday, 30 November 2010

IEMA Reveal Winner of 2010 Graduate Award at Environment and Business Conference

A Graduate from the University of Seattle and Queen's University Belfast claimed the coveted IEMA Graduate Award 2010 last week during an industry conference.

Sherry Palmer, Environmental Officer at Building & Civil Engineering Contractors McLaughlin & Harvey was named as the winner of The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA)'s Graduate Award, sponsored by Land Securities, during a ceremony last Monday (1st November).

Dave Farebrother, Environmental Director at sponsor Land Securities, announced Sherry as the winner and revealed that the judging Panel unanimously chose their winner based on Sherry's work which has helped give her employer a "*position of market leadership.*"

Sherry's contribution to the Belfast-based organisation has helped McLaughlin & Harvey to win several industry-specific awards. The best practice procedures she has developed within her work and her research towards an MSc in *Environmental Engineering* are now being used by others in the sector. Sherry's Manager and Award Nominator Richard Robinson said "*I nominated Sherry for this award because her work has directly contributed to the success of McLaughlin & Harvey in difficult market conditions and has made us a market leader in sustainable construction.*"

The presentation of the award came as part of IEMA's 2010 conference, Environment and Business: The challenge and the opportunity which was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in influential Westminster. As winner, Sherry received a £2000 cash prize, a trophy and 1 year's free IEMA Graduate membership.

Chosen just behind Sherry for their own organisational achievements were two runners-up. Sheena Stone, Project Manager of Towards Zero Carbon Bute at Fyne Futures received the first runner-up prize due to her remarkable community engagement and communications work in creating a sustainable future for the Scottish Island of Bute. David Smith, Environmental Advisor - Decommissioning Directorate at Sellafield Ltd was awarded the third place prize for his tenacity in communicating an environmental risk and bringing about a change in procedure and approach. Both Sheena and David received a £1000 cash prize and 1 year's free IEMA Graduate membership.

Jan Chmiel, CEO of IEMA and Chair of the Environment and Business conference offered his congratulations to all of the winners. "*As part of our ongoing support of Student and Graduate members, who represent around 10% of our membership, I would like to say 'well done' to Sherry, Sheena and David.*"

The IEMA Graduate Award recognises the organisational achievements of practitioners that have graduated from an environmentally-related course within the past three years. It is awarded annually as part of IEMA's dedication to promoting the skills and value of young and recently-trained environmental practitioners.

Dave Farebrother declared his satisfaction in sponsoring the award for the third consecutive year and at the calibre of this year's entries. "*Land Securities is very pleased to be sponsoring this award; we have a firm belief in encouraging young talent and it is clear that in the coming years there is going to be a need for capable, innovative environmentalists and sustainability experts.*"

Continues...

For more information please contact;
Katrina Pierce, Communications Co-ordinator
E-mail: k.pierce@iema.net Tel: 01522 540069
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
St Nicholas House, 70 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, UK
Tel: 01522 540069 Fax: 01522 540090
Website: www.iema.net


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"We received more entries than ever this year, so the trend is definitely moving in the right direction. But what we noticed, more than anything, was the overall quality of the entries across the board was higher than any previous year."

The winner and runners-up of the Graduate Award will be profiled in Issue 108 of IEMA's magazine, 'the environmentalist' along with a full review of the Environment and Business Conference from Monday 15th November.

For more information on IEMA, its policy, events, services, products, membership, training and publications, visit www.iema.net or contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or any contact details listed at the at the bottom of this release.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. The Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) is the membership body for environmental practitioners, placing environmental professionals at the heart of change.
2. IEMA helps its members to make a strategic environmental difference by embedding environment in decision making at all levels. We do this by helping members develop the right combination of knowledge about key environmental issues; the ability to apply key tools in practice; and required skills through knowledge exchange, research, conferences, training and publications.
3. With over 15,000 members working across business, consultancy, public and local authorities IEMA is the most authoritative professional body in the UK.
4. The IEMA Graduate Award is sponsored by Land Securities and is awarded annually as part of IEMA's dedication to promoting the skills and value of young and recently-trained environmentally practitioners and in recognition of the organisational achievements of practitioners that have graduated from an environmentally-related course within the past three years.
5. Land Securities is the largest commercial property company in the UK and a member of the FTSE 100. Founded in 1944, Land Securities now owns and manages more than 29 million sq ft of property, from shopping centres to offices. Visit <http://www.landsecurities.com> for more information.
6. The Environment and Business: The challenge and the opportunity conference was held on Monday 1st to Tuesday 2nd November at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in Westminster. Further details about the conference are available by contacting Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net.
7. For more information on the IEMA Graduate Award or IEMA as a professional body, its policy, research, events, conferences, services, membership, training and publications, please visit www.iema.net.
8. For further comment, interview requests, photographs or IEMA logos, please contact Communications Co-ordinator Katrina Pierce at k.pierce@iema.net or 01522 540069.

For more information please contact;
Katrina Pierce, Communications Co-ordinator
E-mail: k.pierce@iema.net Tel: 01522 540069
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
St Nicholas House, 70 Newport, Lincoln, LN1 3DP, UK
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