

PRESS RELEASE

15 March 2010

Borders College is one of the Best Places to Work in Britain

This weekend, the Sunday Times announced the results of the 2010 Best Places to Work in the Public Sector awards. Borders College headed the results of all entrants from Scotland and was ranked twenty-third nationally. Pete Smith, the College's Director of Finance and Resources attended the prestigious ceremony in London to collect the award on behalf of the College.

Mr Smith said *"Collecting this award on behalf of the College was a great honour, made especially so because the results are based directly on the views and opinions of colleagues. It is testament to the commitment of all the staff in the College that we scored so highly in the rankings."*

The Sunday Times list of the 75 Best Places to Work in the Public Sector is compiled from the views of employees and from the policies of employers. Using a methodology designed exclusively for the British workplace, the survey identified best practice defined by performance in eight key indicators of workplace engagement covering staff opinions on their leadership, their manager, immediate colleagues, pay and benefits, wellbeing, their organisation's willingness to give something back, people's personal development and overall sense of affiliation with their employers.

The views of more than 45,000 public sector workers across more than 200 public sector bodies of all sizes informed the rankings.

The result is a directory of best employment practice in the public sector and guide to the happiest and most dynamic workplaces to be found in Britain.

Employees at Borders College are proud of the College's state-of-the-art facilities and the work the College does to raise the aspirations of its students and create opportunities for them, giving a positive score of 75% in the staff survey. Those staff members who feel that their job is an important part of their lives scored 81% and those who care about providing a great service scored 95%. The scores combined with low sickness absence rates and the fact that 1 in 5 of the 310 strong workforce has been at the College for 10 or more years while almost 40% have been on the payroll for at least five, reflects the belief that people think Borders College is a good place to work.

Staff feel they can make a valuable contribution to the success of the organisation (78%) as well as make a difference within it (76%), and the experience they gain working for the College is valuable (73%) .

Borders College is committed to investing in staff training and development and its development programme runs throughout the year making sure that the workforce has all the necessary skills to provide the best possible experience for learners.

Staff are the least bored of all employees working for mid-sized organisations on the list (75%) and say their job is good for their own personal growth (72%). Managers talk openly and honestly with people (72%) and share important information (70%). Their teams go out of their way for one another (78%, a top five score) and care a lot about each other (76%).

This inclusive culture is led by Principal Liz McIntyre

"Our staff are our most valuable asset. They create the culture which enables our students to succeed and I am delighted that they believe that Borders College is a good place to work. This award will help us to continue to attract excellent staff to work here ensuring we can continue to make a significant contribution to our local community and economy".

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Picture caption:

Jonathan Austin CEO & Founder of Best Companies Ltd presents the award to Pete Smith, Borders College Director of Finance and Resources.