

Gwobrau Tiwtor
Oedolion

Ysbrydoli!TM
Inspire!TM

Adult Tutor
Awards

Award Winners 2021

Behind every successful learner there is an inspirational
tutor or mentor.

L&W SEFYDLIAD DYSGU A GWAITH
LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE

Dathlu 100 mlynedd | Celebrating 100 years



Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



"Learning for life is essential to Wales's economic prosperity, but it is also vital to support and develop our learners to fulfil their aspirations. We need the very best adult learning tutors and we are here this evening to celebrate all who have gone the extra mile in these challenging times."

Message of congratulations by Jeremy Miles MS

Minister for Education and Welsh Language



I am delighted to have been invited to introduce the Inspire! Tutor of the Year Awards 2021.

This past year has been like no other I can remember. And yet despite all of the challenges, I have been so encouraged to see the dedication and support you have shown, to make sure our learners are, inspired to learn, and reach their full potential.

Learning for life is essential to Wales's economic prosperity, but it is also vital to support and develop our learners to fulfil their aspirations. We need the very best adult learning tutors and we are here this evening to celebrate all who have gone the extra mile in these challenging times.

The past year has been tough and we have all had to adapt to changes in the way we work, learn, and live our lives. As one nominated tutor said "I would encourage anyone thinking about going back to education to make the most of the current climate. So much is being made available online often for free, so grab it with both hands." Tutors too have taken the opportunity to learn; improving their own digital learning to keep up with their learners, utilising new technology to reach out to ensure learners become 'masters of their future'. I applaud you all for bringing out the best in learners, helping them to overcome previous negative experiences, and support their health and well-being.

The Inspire! Awards are a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase some of our very best. To reward those tutors whose outlook, resilience, and energy really is, inspiring. To all the tutors who were nominated or won awards this year, I would like to say a huge thank you and congratulations.



Learning and Work Institute are delighted to once again host the Inspire! Tutor Awards in association with the Adult Learning Partnership Wales, Colleges Wales, the National Centre for Learning Welsh, NTFW and Universities Wales.

Foreword by David Hagedyk

Director for Wales, Learning and Work Institute



Learning and Work Institute are delighted to once again host the Inspire! Tutor Awards in association with the Adult Learning Partnership Wales, Colleges Wales, the National Centre for Learning Welsh, NTFW and Universities Wales.

The Inspire! Tutor Awards this year are an opportunity to share and celebrate the stories and successes of our fantastic winners and nominees over what has been the most challenging of years. Tutors have adapted to the new way of working but have continued to support and engage learners and ensure that they are able to fulfil their potential. These awards are just a snapshot of the amazing work taking place in our colleges, universities, workplaces and communities and they reflect a sector that despite continued pressure on budgets and on time are continuing to deliver excellent learning opportunities.

The Inspire! Awards are a chance to say thank you. It is also a chance to renew our calls for investment in lifelong learning and in the wider value of adult education for individuals and communities as we recover from the pandemic. From preparing young people for the future, helping adults to progress in work and re-skill, or simply giving adults a second chance at education and learning for personal fulfilment. Lifelong learning needs to once again be a priority for our nation.

None of this can happen without a workforce that is valued, fairly rewarded and supported and we hope these awards are just a small part of recognising the contribution that practitioners make and a step towards creating a workforce that has the support they need to change lives for the better.



"I've always enjoyed the challenge of creating and providing real and practical educational chances and opportunities. I love finding new ways of learning and sharing ideas."

Jos Andrews

Unite the Union, Wales Union Learning Fund



Jos Andrews is a freelance tutor working with Unite the Union and their workplace programmes which are part of the Wales Union Learning Fund.

The impact of the coronavirus meant that many workplaces were facing redundancies and Jos has been part of a team in the last 12 months supporting people with retraining and identifying skills to help them find new employment. Jos works with each person to develop their interview skills, build CVs and provides coaching to identify the talents they have, but maybe don't recognise.

A participant in the sessions delivered by Jos said, "You and your team were game changers in the carnage that we all were experiencing. The advice and guidance that we had was simply incredible. Now the workforce had someone to turn to, now people had some feeling of support and for that I can't thank you enough."

Jos believes there is a simple way to engage people and build their confidence and their skills, "It's a case of finding out what works for them" she says, "I've always enjoyed the challenge of creating and providing real and practical educational chances and opportunities. I love finding new ways of learning and sharing ideas."

Jos has had a varied career and brings all of her experience to the current role, from setting up pupil/parent clubs as a student teacher, writing major learning programmes for the BBC to live event producing at the Olympic Games. She is also a Quick Reads author and ambassador committed to improving the reading skills of adults.

"My mission in tutoring has been to find creative ways of motivating those who have been turned off by formal education processes. The aim has always been the same for me. I want to engage with and bring out the best in people."



"I'm passionate about sharing my love of the language and finding new ways for my learners to practice speaking and using their skills confidently."

Heddwen Roberts

Learn Welsh for Adults Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire



Heddwen Roberts is a tutor for adults at Learn Welsh Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire. She has a degree in Welsh and had been a teacher, but she became a Welsh tutor when she retired and moved back to Wales to live. It was a difficult time for her having lost her husband, she lost her confidence to go out and meet people.

The success of Heddwen's teaching is evidenced in the popularity of her classes and the progression that learners make. She teaches seven classes each week ranging from access to higher level qualifications, with around sixty learners attending and in addition to this, teaches at Easter and Summer Schools.

She says, "I'm passionate about sharing my love of the language and finding new ways for my learners to practice speaking and using their skills confidently. My classes are flexible, and I work with the needs of each learner, but I like to make them fun and real, so we explore issues in current affairs and things that are relevant in their lives."

Now in her 70's, when the pandemic hit, she realised that maintaining learning was vital but was also going to be a challenge as she needed to learn new skills to teach online. "When we went into lockdown I initially carried on tutoring by post and by phone ... and then ZOOM was mentioned! It's been a steep learning curve for me to make the switch to learning online, but I think that I've risen to the challenge and taken the students with me!"

"Now I get such pleasure from teaching – it's much more than a job. The learners inspire me! Humour and laughter helps too."



"I believe in advocating for my students as, like each and every one of us, they have a different way of learning not barriers to learning. They all have a super-power, and it's my job to find it, no matter what their ability."

Alice Jones

Parc Prison



Three years ago, Alice Jones became the first Additional Learning Needs (ALN) teacher at HMP/YOI Parc.

"My work is about creating opportunities for prisoners with ALN to learn in a more specialised and individual way. As someone with dyslexia I know how challenging education can be – it's my job to find ways for each person to achieve."

Residents are supported with education in anything from reading and writing to strategies for daily living. Alice says, "Many of the men I work with have a range of complex needs as well as difficulties with reading, writing and maths. Many things that are vital to thrive in everyday life in prison."

Alice is skilled at finding what each resident is passionate about and uses this to build skills in a way that is adapted to how they learn best. Each person has ownership and pride in their learning – for many it's the first time they've had this in their lives.

The role has grown to lead and advise staff in the prison on how to develop best practice when working with residents who have additional learning needs, and to bring the prison in line with the current Welsh framework and policies.

The programme is not only about learning new skills but is also about focusing on the positive way students can improve and manage their lives and prosper when they return to their communities. Achievements can range from helping a resident to improve his numeracy and literacy so he can fill out an order for his meal, to longer term goals such as working with a student with learning disabilities to gain employment on the prison radio or writing a book.

"I believe in advocating for my students as, like each and every one of us, they have a different way of learning not barriers to learning. They all have a super-power, and it's my job to find it, no matter what their ability."



“For me, life is a journey with problems to solve, lessons to learn, but most of all experiences to enjoy. I want the young people I work with to let go of past learning experiences”.

Melanie Lloyd

ACT Training Ltd



Melanie Lloyd is a tutor leading on delivering Traineeships at ACT. She works with 16–18-year-olds to deliver employability qualifications to help them progress onto further learning, an apprenticeship or into employment.

She says, “For me, life is a journey with problems to solve, lessons to learn, but most of all experiences to enjoy. I want the young people I work with to let go of past learning experiences”.

Many of the young people have experienced complex issues that have affected their learning – negative experiences at school, a lack of confidence, mental health issues or additional learning needs that must be supported.

Melanie, like many other tutors has responded to the coronavirus pandemic by adapting her teaching methods. “Over the last year we’ve all been challenged to think differently about maintaining our provision and supporting our learners. I’ve had to think about each learner and how to support them to get the best out of what we have done online. I’ve voiced over PowerPoint presentations and added YouTube videos to make the learning accessible for all.”

Melanie’s success comes from thinking about each learning experience as building valuable life skills for each of her learners, making it a priority to plan next steps with each young person to give them ownership and involvement in all that they do.

“In life you will never remember everything that was taught to you, but you will always remember how you were made to feel.”



“My students come from all kinds of backgrounds, many without science qualifications but that’s not a barrier, they achieve exceptional results. I’m just passionate to support more women into science careers.”

Amy Rattenbury

Wrexham Glyndŵr University



Amy Rattenbury is a senior lecturer in Forensic Science and is passionate about providing accessible learning opportunities and promoting science education particularly to women.

“My students come from all kinds of backgrounds, many without science qualifications but that’s not a barrier, they achieve exceptional results. I’m just passionate to support more women into science careers.”

Student, Paige Tynan says, “When I look back, I was shy, I lacked confidence. At school I was told I’d fail my science exams; it was a subject I’d always been keen on and wanted a career in science. I enrolled on a foundation degree, after a rocky start I started to feel this was exactly where I was supposed to be. I’m now a first-class honours graduate in Forensic Science and I haven’t looked back. I’ve started a doctorate and Amy has inspired me to teach alongside her.”

Public engagement is also a major focus of the work that Amy does, promoting science education with the local community and encouraging students to get involved with outreach work too. This includes short courses and public lectures to ignite interest and break down barriers.

Amy says, “I pride myself on my flexible, inclusive and accessible strategies to teaching and learning. I also provide wider support to Glyndŵr as a Union Learning Rep. I’m the Wales UCU Women’s officer and a mentor to archaeologist and trainee teachers”.

“I would encourage anyone thinking about going back to education to make the most of the current climate. So much is being made available online often free, so grab it with both hands. Once you find a subject you love, it can change your life.”



"I see my role as one that encourages learners to believe in their capabilities, see the world through a different lens. Education empowers, hopefully, it raises learners' expectations in life for themselves and for their families"

Dr Clare Elmi-Glennan

Cardiff Metropolitan University



Clare Elmi-Glennan is an outreach tutor and lecturer at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

She says, "Tutoring quite simply means everything to me. On the surface I teach Psychology and keep my learners engaged – but learning and teaching is so much more." Clare has led pioneering work to widen access to university and to get adults on a pathway to higher education through the Community to Campus programme. "I see my role as one that encourages learners to believe in their capabilities, see the world through a different lens. Education empowers, hopefully, it raises learners' expectations in life for themselves and for their families"

Clare went back to adult learning to take an A level and Maths GCSE. At the age of 37 she knew she wanted to teach, she says, "I burnt the midnight oil, juggled work commitments and study whilst raising five children and achieved a first-class degree. After my degree, I was given the opportunity to engage with a PhD at Cardiff Met – with the support of my wonderful family and amazing supervisory team, I completed my PhD in 2013."

The coronavirus pandemic has caused upheaval in learning and teaching – Clare was particularly mindful that community learners might be more likely to suffer the impact. Determined not to let those learners down, she quickly embraced new technologies to maintain community teaching. She took part in Adult Learners' Week in September 2020 and delivered a live stream lecture for students thinking about coming back to education. Clare continued to deliver an iteration of her psychology module, online, to community adult learners. In addition, she contributed an Introduction to Psychology module for the Welsh Government Continuation of Learning project plan. This initiative helped Year 13 students unable to proceed with their learning due to Covid-19.

"My experience has made me passionate about reaching out to more people in our communities, there is so much untapped potential out there. For many reasons people miss out at school or simply do not enjoy this time, but everyone deserves second, third ... as many chances as it takes in life. My message to adult learners is straightforward - no matter what has happened in the past, you can be responsible for carving out your future!"



“Teaching is in our blood. We care about every student that we work with and try our best to go the extra mile. We work with young people who have attended pupil referral units or have experienced complete exclusion from schools.”

Michael Ivins & Tim Buckley

Ministry of Life Education



Tim Buckley and Michael Ivins have created Ministry of Life Education to create opportunities for young people to find their passions and nurture their potential.

With their team they now deliver full time courses for 16–25-year-olds and a pre-16 programme for young people who have either been removed from education or have struggled to fit in.

Tim says, “Teaching is in our blood. We care about every student that we work with and try our best to go the extra mile. We work with young people who have attended pupil referral units or have experienced complete exclusion from schools. All are facing barriers to formal education and are suffering social issues. Somehow, they seem to be drawn to us and we offer an alternative approach when they most need it.”

Tim and Michael started as youth workers and quickly developed from having a youth club to running short courses for young people. They now have team of five people to deliver learning and mentoring.

Michael says, “If we’re honest it’s about being part social workers and part teachers. You have to tackle the whole set of issues that each young person is experiencing if they are going to achieve and go further.

As part of their approach, they concentrate on providing a safe, alternative environment within the community that the young people live.

They say, “Our doors are always open, and we have a wider community focus to solve problems – whether it’s donating equipment, purchasing food, clothes, helping with housing and drug and alcohol misuse issues. Our young people always inspire us, seeing them respond, transform, and find a way forward, motivates us to continue to be there for them.”



"I identify with my learners because I've gone through change, retraining, and finding new directions in my own life. I turned to what I was passionate about – supporting young people and I haven't looked back."

Robert Burton

Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales



Rob Burton is a tutor delivering youth worker qualifications for Adult Learning Wales. Rob brings life experience to his role having been made redundant in the 90's from British Steel, he found a new direction and retrained as a youth worker, spending 16 years as a youth work manager.

He says, "I identify with my learners because I've gone through change, retraining, and finding new directions in my own life. I turned to what I was passionate about – supporting young people and I haven't looked back."

For the past 7 years, Rob has delivered youth support worker qualifications to hundreds of learners across Wales, he says, "I love what I do. Tutoring is a great way to pass on information, knowledge and experience to each new generation of youth workers and volunteers."

Many learners start with no previous qualifications, Rob focuses on building their confidence and motivation, many go on into employment and others carry on learning at higher levels and through to university.

Rob says, "I believe in each one of my learners, they all bring so much in terms of life skills and experience. It's a privilege to work with each of them and see them achieve their potential."

Lockdown halted the programme initially, but Rob and his team decided that they had to find a way to get some continuity to the teaching and to ensure that they continued to have a supply of qualified youth support workers.

"I knew that we needed to reshape the curriculum to suit a virtual environment. We've done this adaption and created more resources for online learning. I'm always looking to develop and broaden my knowledge and use this as an example to encourage learners not to look down on themselves but to build little by little from where they are."



"We know that for many, in-work poverty is a huge issue. Our aim is to build skills to give more choice, more control over their lives and empower them to move forward."

Working Skills for Adults 2 tutor team

Merthyr Tydfil



Working Skills for Adults 2 reaches people who are employed or self-employed who would like to increase their skills, targeting support and qualifications to help progress in their current jobs or change career. The scheme has been supported by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.

Leanne Williams says, "We know that for many, in-work poverty is a huge issue. Our aim is to build skills to give more choice, more control over their lives and empower them to move forward. We often work with people who didn't enjoy education the first time around – many didn't like school, left without any qualifications and for some, additional learning needs just weren't identified." The tutor team focus on rebuilding confidence. Leanne says, "It's an amazing reward to see our learners achieve, gain qualifications and move forward. Some get promotions, change jobs and build more skills to help with their families and to live life more positively."

At the start of the pandemic tutors kept in touch with learners via email and telephone and quickly realised that there was an appetite from the learners to continue their learning online. When the pandemic hit, all tutors on the team felt that they needed to upskill themselves quickly and they worked with partner organisations such as Digital Communities Wales to enable them to do this. The tutors showed huge commitment to continue working with learners whilst all facing challenges themselves such as childcare, ill health and bereavement. The team worked hard to create online live lessons and to make these sessions interactive and interesting for the learners.

Most recently, tutors are responding to the challenges faced by many who are unsure what their work future holds.

Learners have revealed that they are concerned that industries that they have worked in for many years may not continue, such as retail and hospitality. In response to this, the tutors have developed a range of Step into a New Career courses which provide learners with a new career path. In addition to this, wider life issues are also identified and the team links with organisations such as MIND, Samaritans and housing / debt charities. They say, "It's so important to work with each person on all of the issues that are affecting them, and our partners provide expert information when needed."

"We are so incredibly proud of what we've achieved, there are no compromises on quality. We all know that we have so much more still to do but we are driven by working with each of our learners to create better futures for them and their families."



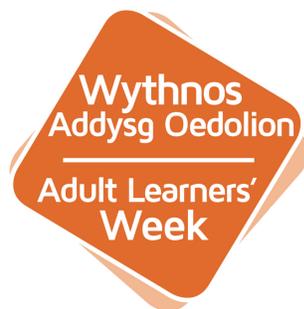
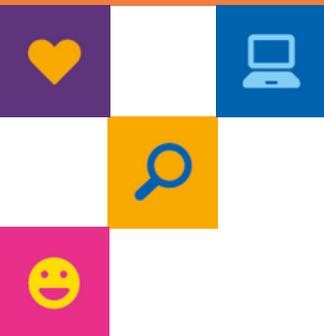
Congratulations to our 2021 Inspire! Tutor Award finalists each highly commended in their category.

Rhian Anstee - Educ8 Training Group
Melanie Clinton - Welsh Refugee Council
Jamie Davies - Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales
Lowri Gwenllian - Learn Welsh Carmarthenshire
Carolyn Jones - City & County of Swansea Lifelong Learning Service
Sarian Thomas Jones - Dysgu Cymraeg
Dr Liz Lane - The Open University
Simon Van Loock - Coleg Cambria Llysfasi
Angelina Mitchell - ACT Training Ltd
Theresa Murray - Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales
Mary Reed - Monmouthshire County Council
Francesca Sgalia - Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales
Carol Symonds - Vale of Glamorgan Council Adult Learning Service
Joy Williams - Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales

We are grateful to the many organisations and individuals delivering and supporting adult learning across Wales. Many thanks to our stakeholders and partners for their support for the Inspire! Tutor Awards.



Join our Adult Learners' Week campaign



#changeyourstory



Adult Learners' Week in partnership with Welsh Government, is set to take place between 20 – 26 September 2021 with promotional activity taking place throughout August and September.

Lifelong learning is a vital part of the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The last year has highlighted inequalities in many communities and has shown how connected health, skills levels, education and employment, and good jobs are to securing the best life chances. The campaign offers a vital stepping-stone and a chance for us all to work together across Wales to ensure that more people know about the opportunities available to them. Together we can create increased visibility and momentum for lifelong learning in Wales and inspire more adults to move forward and build a better future with confidence.

We want to celebrate the benefits of lifelong learning in Wales, showcase what works, sign-post advice and guidance and share the stories of people who have created new futures for themselves.

Join our network of partners to deliver live tutorials and events for the campaign and we'll promote any courses and resources on the site from August and September.

We want to work with you to:

- Engage with new and existing audiences (550 courses and 130,000 searches on the site last year).
- Play a key role in connecting people in Wales to get support with health & wellbeing, learning and employment opportunities.
- Be part of a Wales-wide campaign and partnership that advocates lifelong learning and share positive, aspirational stories to inspire others to consider learning, developing new skills and make a fresh start.

[Visit our Adult Learners' Week website for more information.](#)



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