

Growing Ambitions youth careers initiative wins top website award

Submitted by: Growing Ambitions

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Growing Ambitions (<http://www.growingambitions.org>) has won the HantsWeb Awards (<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/communications/mediacentre/mediareleases.htm?newsid=2769562008>) in the 'Best Special Interest Website' category beating over 160 nominations. The Special Interest Category was one of two that received the most nominations. The Awards ceremony was held at the Intech science centre, Winchester on Tuesday 4th November.

Growing Ambitions is an online broker of volunteer career speakers from over 800 different careers into education. It covers every town in the UK - England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but has its main office base in Portsmouth, Hampshire.

The HantsWeb Awards reward the best websites in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and are run by Hampshire County Council. This year's awards were sponsored by Wave105 FM, Dell, the Daily Echo, Unisys and other top local and national organisations.

The Special Interest category was judged by Martin Ball, Managing Director of top local commercial radio station Wave105 FM, and Councillor Baulk, e-Government Champion of Hampshire County Council. Entrants were all of a high calibre making the judging difficult.

Growing Ambitions was praised for its user friendliness, straightforward and informative content, and for its objectives - getting the county - and the UK - volunteering to benefit young people.

Nominated websites went through a three-stage selection procedure: shortlisting to 10 sites; then from 10 down to 3 finalists. From these three the winner was selected.

Ken Thornber, Leader of Hampshire County Council said "Winners and runners-up should be extremely proud of their hard work and dedication to creating accessible, innovative and user friendly online services..[.]"

This is the sixth year of the Awards which this time attracted 1,116 nominations - the highest level to date.

Sally Davis, MD of Growing Ambitions

(<http://www.growingambitions.org/images/uploaded/Docs/gasallydavismore.doc>)

won a Dell Vostro notebook laptop, a framed certificate and an impressive trophy. On receiving the Award she said: "The whole experience has been really exciting and I'm thrilled and proud that Growing Ambitions has won this prestigious Award. It's great to be recognised for the contribution Growing Ambitions makes to the lives of young people across the county and beyond. The Award will also help us to attract higher numbers of speaker volunteers and to raise the profile of Growing Ambitions throughout the county and nationwide."

For more information on Growing Ambitions visit www.growingambitions.org