

Guru lecturers for career academy

Derby College is launching one of the first careers academies in the East Midlands to boost construction and civil engineering skills.

About ten of the 40 students expected to start on the National Diplomas in Construction and Civil Engineering at the college's new Roundhouse vocational campus in September will be earmarked to join the academy.

They will have access to an enhanced programme running alongside their Diploma. Additional support will include contact with 'guru lecturers' and vital work experience including a

summer internship.

Assistant principal Steve Logan said: "It is highly appropriate to concentrate on construction and civil engineering for this pilot programme as these skills will be vital in the future recovery of the UK economy.

"Indeed, there is still particularly high demand for civil engineering skills with a number of high profile and robust construction and infrastructure projects under way and in the pipeline."

Corporate College, the business arm of Derby College, has been working with JCB in one of the



April Hayhurst with JCB employees Richard Birkby and Graham Arthur

biggest employee training initiatives in the company's history.

Corporate College director April Hayhurst said: "JCB have

demonstrated an incredibly high level of commitment to their workforce in an extremely difficult economic climate."

College goes on the defensive



From left, Simon Scattergood, Anna Burke, Mark Wingfield, Jason Barnett and Michelle Hastelow.

A representative from Max Conflict Management has visited Burton College to run a workshop for staff on empowering people to manage conflict situations effectively.

Mark Wingfield from the Derby company, which specialises in providing practical conflict management and self-protection training, ran the taster session for staff working in the Skills for Life and Work area.

Designed to help build

confidence and improve teamwork, the session also looked at the causes and prevention of conflict, how to recognise warning signs and the avoidance of confrontational situations.

In addition, some of the techniques for keeping safe were covered together with a demonstration of HeartMath, the stress management system used in education, by top sportspeople and businesses.

Toyota partnership gets motoring

Toyota Manufacturing UK has given a huge boost to its long-standing partnership with Burton College by selecting it as its partner for the introduction of NVQ Level 2 business improvement techniques for over 3,500 employees.

Led from Burnaston, the scheme will receive funding under the Government's Train to Gain service, and will be rolled out over the next three years across the company's manufacturing operations.

Howard Boswell, a college director, said: "Over the last eight years the college has enjoyed a good working relationship with Toyota Manufacturing UK, providing a range of training including adult apprenticeships, technical skills training and literacy and numeracy, which illustrates Toyota's commitment to the



From left, Derek Sharp and Howard Boswell of Burton College; Rich Fitchett of Toyota Manufacturing UK; Burton College principal Dawn Ward, and Clive Bridge, corporate affairs director at Toyota.

lifelong development of their employees.

"One of the college's main aims is to form partnerships with industry and commerce in order to develop flexible programmes that meet their future needs. By taking on board Toyota's ethos of improving efficiency whilst reducing cost, this is truly a win-win relationship."

Single mum's journey from dead end to degree

A single mum who spent her childhood in and out of care, and struggled to read at age 12, has earned a University of Derby business degree.

Victoria Titchener (28) of Ripley was taken into care aged seven, and spent the next six years in and out of care and foster homes.

At 15-years-old she was working part time in a pub kitchen, at 16

she left school and at 17 had to abandon her further studies to become a veterinary nurse after becoming pregnant with son Jay, now ten. She also has a nine-year-old daughter, Teri-Jade.

Victoria said: "I knew I wanted a better life. I decided to get back into education to get a qualification and to get a job I really wanted to do. I needed to prove to myself I could

do that."

After attending business and IT courses at a Derby college, she enrolled on the University of Derby's two-year HND in business management. She then did a 'top up' year to bring it up to honours degree standard.

She hopes to use her degree to eventually go into marketing or human resources work.

Victoria is currently working within the management team of the Somerfield supermarket chain.

Senior lecturer Nick Turner said: "This is a remarkable achievement. I am sure I can speak for various colleagues, who also know Victoria, when I say that we have nothing but admiration for her determination to succeed against the odds. I feel sure her future is very bright."