

Principals, chief executives and bricklaying tutor honoured by the Queen

BY FE WEEK REPORTER
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More than 20 FE and skills-related figures were among the 1,163 people to have received an award in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List.

City and Islington College principal and chair of the Commission on Adult Vocational Teaching and Learning (Cavtl) Frank McLoughlin was chief among these with a knighthood.

The remaining awards were made up of five CBEs, 11 OBEs, seven MBEs and a BEM (British Empire Medal).

Six of these (including Sir Frank) went to college principals or chief executives, one went to a governor, another to a head of student life, another to a bricklaying tutor and one to a former college higher education manager.

There was also recognition for skills provision outside the college environment with Cumbria-based independent learning provider Gen2 Training chief executive Mike Smith picking up an OBE.

Further skills honours for the business world came for Rotherham engineering firm Newburgh Engineering chair and managing director Vincent Middleton with an OBE, while South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) chair, Helena Kennedy Foundation chair and founder and former principal of Milton Keynes and Cambridge Regional colleges Ann Limb received a CBE.

Stewart Segal, chief executive of the Association of Employment and Learning Providers, said: "It's good to see that a wide range of people across the sector have received awards.

"In the independent sector, Mike Smith's championing of skills training in the North West has been fantastic and his OBE is richly deserved. We hope to see more independent providers recognised in future honours lists.

"We have worked closely with Ann Limb in the development of skills and employment within the sector so we are equally pleased about her CBE. And we were pleased to be part of the Cavtl initiative and therefore we are delighted about the knighthood for Frank McLoughlin."

Martin Doel, Association of Colleges chief executive, said: "Congratulations to all our FE sector colleagues, but most particularly to those in our member colleges whose tireless work has been recognised.

"Every year principals, governors and other staff are rewarded for their dedication to FE and we are pleased to see such a number again this year."

Dr Lynne Sedgmore CBE, executive director of the 157 Group, said: "We offer our congratulations to all those who have been honoured for the important work they do in FE and skills, which has enormous value for individual learners, employers, the economy and society."

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Sir Frank tops FE list

City and Islington College principal and chair of the Commission on Adult Vocational Teaching and Learning (Cavtl) Frank McLoughlin was given a knighthood in the Queen's 2015 Birthday honours list.

Mr McLoughlin's award came as official recognition for his services to FE having been City and Islington principal since July 2002.

In 2012 he was appointed Cavtl. Its findings, taken on by the Education and Training Foundation, were published in

March 2013 and included proposals for a national centre for a National Vocational Education and Training (VET) Centre.

Mr McLoughlin said: "Receiving this honour is, most importantly, further recognition of the work City and Islington College undertakes to enable young people and adults to learn, thrive and succeed."

He added: "I believe the honour also recognises the wider impact of Cavtl, which I chaired in 2013, and the critical importance of the FE sector as a whole."

CBEs — FIVE FE AND SKILLS FIGURES RECOGNISED



Two years after his hard-hitting review recommended around 95 per cent of the adult vocational market's 19,000-plus qualifications could be axed under radical proposals to "de-clutter the system," and BAE group managing director Nigel Whitehead has been honoured with a CBE.

It came as recognition for his services to vocational education and skills with his further involvement in the sector coming in the form of a commissioner's post at the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) since 2009.

"I am delighted to have been awarded a



CBE," he said. "In my work at BAE Systems and at the UKCES, I'm fortunate to see at first hand the benefits business and society at large gains from having a well-trained and qualified workforce."

Another CBE headed for Leeds City College principal Peter Roberts, for services to FE, as he prepares for retirement at the end of the summer.

"Having worked in education for 37 years and in the FE sector for 32 years, I am both delighted and humbled to be recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List," he said. "It is only fitting that I pay tribute and



dedicate this award to all those who have helped, guided and supported me along the way. In particular, this includes my family, friends and all colleagues in the sector with whom it has been a privilege to work over this period of time."

And Dr Ann Limb's political service earned her a CBE, too. She has worked with former Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg when he was an MEP, and was an independent member of the Education Committee of David Cameron's Public Services Improvement Policy Group, among other politics-related roles.



"Being nominated for two gongs in four years feels like an extravagance - and I'm thinking of it as an upgrade to business class," said Dr Limb, who was awarded an OBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for public service and for services to education.

"However, the organisations, businesses, and charities to which I give my time are thrilled that I've got another 'badge' — particularly The Scout Association where in September I shall be invested as their first woman chair in its history."

and Angus College, for services to education. She has been the college principal for two years having previously been principal of Dundee College (before merger) for six years and principal of Elmwood College, in Fife, for a decade before that.

She told *FE Week*: "I'm stunned. It's very special."

Dr Heather McGregor was another OBE recipient, for services to business, especially employment skills and diversity in the workplace. She has been chair for four years of the Career Ready charity which works with 16 to 18-year-olds to help them become ready for employment and was a board member there for six years previously.

She is also a Financial Times columnist, who writes under the name of Miss Money Penny, and also founder of the Taylor Bennett Foundation, which helps black and ethnic minority graduates get jobs in the communications industry.

"I am absolutely delighted — I feel that this honour isn't for me, I couldn't have done any of this without the support of literally dozens and dozens of people," she said. "The real honour has been being a colleague of so many wonderful different people."

OBEs — 'unfailing support for youngsters' earns Des award

Having "unfailingly supported young people in land-based education" for nearly four decades, Plumpton College principal Des Lambert has been given an OBE.

His services to land-based education and young people earned him the honour and he said: "I am delighted and proud to receive this honour. Helping young people learn and develop their careers is one of the most privileged and satisfying of occupations and to do this in an area encompassing all that goes on in the land-based industries and the countryside is most rewarding. The award reflects the hard work of all of the college staff."

Fellow principal Shelagh Legrave was honoured with an OBE for services to FE just over a year after leading her 14,500-learner Chichester College to an outstanding Ofsted

rating, as was National Extension College chief executive Ros Morpeth.

"I believe I was nominated because of coming out of retirement in 2010 determined to secure the future of the NEC and preserve the legacy of the flagship organisation of its founder, the social entrepreneur Michael Young," said Dr Morpeth, who turned around the fortunes of the ailing long-distance learning provider that she had left after 27 years in 2003.

Meanwhile, former Association of Colleges deputy chief executive Lesley Davies, vice president for quality, standards and research at Pearson, was awarded an OBE for services to education.

Her career in education spans 25 years, working first as a teacher and manager in general FE before moving into inspection

and policy development with organisations including the Learning and Skills Council.

"I am thrilled, and a little shocked, to receive this incredible honour — I can't imagine having worked in anything but education for the past 25 years," she said.

Gen2 Training chief executive Mike Smith picked up an OBE for services to skills training and voluntary service in Cumbria. "I'm obviously delighted not just for the recognition of my services to FE but also for the community in Cumbria," he said.

"It goes without saying that it's a great honour and a privileged to be have been recognised in this way especially as a leader of an independent training organisation. It's not only recognition for myself but for Gen2 and all of its staff, without whose dedicated support and professionalism over the years,

none of my achievements would have been possible."

Newburgh Engineering chair and managing director Vincent Middleton was another FE-related

MBEs — ANDREW CEMENTS PLACE IN HONOURS

OBE recipient, for services to advanced manufacturing skills training.

"I was a bit gobsmacked, really. I think it's a very nice thing to have, that recognition, but I know I now it's a recognition of a lot of people and a lot of effort put in across the South Yorkshire region," he said.

And Judy Lowe's services to the construction industry, particularly women in construction, earned her an OBE.

The former Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) deputy chair told *FE Week*: "Young people are seeing construction for what it is now, not what it was 20 years ago."

Skills for Care executive Sharon Allen was awarded an OBE for services to social care, homeless people and housing and long-serving board member Brian Walsh, executive director of People at Coventry City Council, was awarded an OBE for services to social care.

Services to the development of cyber skills saw Judy Susan Baker, founder and former chair of Cyber Security Challenge UK, awarded an OBE, as was Emer Marie Murnaghan, head of business improvement at Graham Construction, for services to the civil engineering profession and FE in Northern Ireland.

37 years working for the college.

"I am, of course, personally delighted to have been honoured in this way, but I regard the award as being on behalf of a great many fine people with whom I worked at Loughborough College over 37 years and I thank them now and the college for nominating me," he said.

Croydon College head of student life Di Layzelle was recognised for her service to FE having worked tirelessly at the college for over a quarter of a century in various roles. She has steered students and the college to engage in, and support, many significant causes to the benefit of Croydon and its community.

"It's fantastic for the college because I think it shows the true value they place on student engagement and this is really

about helping students aspire and achieve what they might never have dreamed they could," said Ms Layzelle.

Barbara Poole, operations director for Acorn Training and board member of The National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW), also received an MBE, for services to work-based learning in Wales, as did Kathleen Rebecca Harker, former Ministry of Defence basic skills development manager, for services to Army education.

Northern Ireland's Riverpark Training and Development managing director Colin William Hagan's MBE was given for services to vocational skills, while Carole Ann Garrett received a British Empire Medal for services to enterprise and skills in Burnley.



Des Lambert Ros Morpeth Lesley Davies Mike Smith Vincent Middleton



Andrew Dennis Alex Denholm Eric MacIntyre Di Layzelle