



Steve Walker named regions top young director

The East Midlands' top directors were announced last Thursday night (15th Oct 2009) at the Institute of Directors (IoD) annual Business Leaders Dinner, held at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham.

Steve Walker, Managing Director of SWA and Assessment UK Ltd of Birstall, Leicestershire was named East Midlands IoD Young Director of the Year. The awards celebrate the achievement of the region's most hardworking and innovative business leaders and Steve was chosen from nominations made by IoD members in the region.

Steve Walker (31) is founder of SWA and Managing Director of Assessment UK, one of the leading private providers for bespoke learning and development, vocational training and assessment services in the UK. He also has a number of senior positions in other successful organisations, making him one of the region's leading young entrepreneurs. The company is based at Birstall, Leicester.



Steve Walker, winner of young IoD director of the year with from left Ron Lynch, IoD East Midlands Regional Director, Mike Carr (as above) and Shahid Sheikh, IoD Leicestershire Chairman

"It is an honour to win this prestigious award against great competition, and to be identified as the region's leading entrepreneur by the IoD is a huge accolade. I would like to pay tribute to the whole team at SWA and AUK who have worked with me to develop such good companies for our customers." Said Steve Walker (MD SWA and AUK).

Dr Mike Higgins is Regional Director of Hydrock, specialising in supplying services for construction, infrastructure and the environment, based in Northampton was awarded Director of The Year.

Announcing the award Ron Lynch, IoD East Midlands Regional Director, said: "In the current challenging business economy it is very encouraging to find such good news stories as our winners. They have shown exceptional leadership and gone above and beyond in their work to develop their companies and profitability."

Mike Carr, emda's Executive Director of Business Services presented trophies to the award winners. Prizes also included a module of their choice at the Chartered Director course at Loughborough University.

Some 160 of the region's top business people and their guests attended the seventh annual dinner, which was supported by emda. A raffle, in aid of The Prince's Trust in the East Midlands, raised more than £1000.

Andy Harsley of Grantham, the mastermind and inventor behind the hugely successful Rapstrap reusable plastic strap product, from the BBC series Dragon's Den, was the keynote speaker.

Contacts and further information:

1. Steve Walker may be contacted on :
stevewalker@stevewalkerassociates.com. Tel 0116 2152555.
2. SWA is a bespoke management training and development company specialising in delivering bespoke development across all levels of business, from director level downwards.
3. SWA works with over three hundred companies nationally, including The Football Association and Royal Mail.
4. For further details see www.stevewalkerassociates.com
5. Assessment UK provides NVQ (National Vocational Qualifications) to leading companies across the UK.
www.assessmentuk.net.
6. Picture shows Steve Walker, with from left Ron Lynch, IoD East Midlands Regional Director, Mike Carr (as above) and Shahid Sheikh, IoD Leicestershire Chairman.
6. Ron Lynch, IoD East Midlands Regional Director on 0115 9823 011 or 07939 584 626. Janet Wootton, IoD Ext Midlands Press Officer on 0115 913 9760.

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