

signature annual awards

2010



For those who make a difference

Signature
*excellence in communication
with deaf people*

About the awards

We are proud to introduce the Signature Annual Awards 2010. Many people deserve recognition for their dedicated efforts to overcome barriers to communication between deaf and hearing people. Signature Annual Awards provide that recognition by acknowledging those whose contribution moves us all further toward achieving a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access.

Jim Edwards, Signature's Chief Executive, said, "The quality and diversity of the nominations that we received last year speaks volumes about the amazing work that is undertaken all over the country. We are looking forward to hearing about more people and organisations that are really making a difference for deaf people. All our nominees have different reasons for doing what they do. Signature is just glad they do it. We are immensely proud to be able to celebrate the contributions of each and every one of them."

Award categories:

- Joseph Maitland Robinson Award for Outstanding Contribution
- Teacher of the Year
- Learner of the Year
- Communication Professional of the Year
- Organisational Achievement
- Young Learner of the Year
- Centre of the Year



Joseph Maitland Robinson Award for Outstanding Contribution

Given in the name of our late benefactor, this award recognises a significant contribution toward achieving a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access. The award can acknowledge passion, long-term commitment, or a timely intervention, service provision, teaching, learning, awareness-raising, or campaigning. If you know someone who has made an outstanding contribution, we want to hear from you.



2009 winner

Lynn Delfosse, is a sign language interpreter who convinced the Welsh Assembly Government to provide £2.7 million to set up work-based interpreter training. Now working across the UK, Lynn's drive and commitment has helped one in ten of all UK registered interpreters to qualify, greatly improving access for the Deaf community.

Lynn commented, "I'm thrilled and honoured to win such a prestigious award. I hope the award highlights the need to continue in investing to grow the quality and quantity of communication professionals in the UK."

Teacher of the Year

Teachers can make all the difference to a learning experience. This award recognises those who through their drive and enthusiasm, classroom commitment and high-quality teaching have expanded provision, improved access or achieved consistently outstanding results in our qualifications.

UK country and regional winners will be announced in summer 2010 and welcomed at our prestigious Signature Annual Awards ceremony in November, where we will present the overall Teacher of the Year award.

2009 winner

Robert Le Masurier is the only qualified teacher of BSL in Jersey, and his signing classes are incredibly popular. Robert encourages a commitment to signing that goes beyond classroom learning; he has produced a sign dictionary and gets his younger learners to participate in a signing choir. Robert has been called a gifted teacher who works with children, adults and those with special needs.

Robert said, "I was so shocked to have won the regional award, let alone the overall Teacher of the Year award! The competition was strong as there were lots of people who deserved to win."



Learner of the Year

Many learners are going the extra mile to break down communication barriers and move us a step closer to a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access. This award recognises the dedication and exceptional commitment of learners, studying our qualifications, to overcome barriers, achieve outstanding results and contribute to the wider community.

UK country and regional winners will be announced in summer 2010 and welcomed at our prestigious Signature Annual Awards ceremony in November, where we will present the overall Learner of the Year award.



2009 winner

Jon Hickman shined in his Level 1 BSL class encouraging fellow students to get involved in workshops and to improve their skills and confidence. Jon inspired others to join him as he spent his summer holiday working as a guide at an organised deafblind vacation. He works at a school and is really excited about the prospect of introducing deaf awareness and BSL to pupils and staff.

"I was over the moon when I won," Jon said. "I had the biggest smile on my face and was so pleased I could share the moment with my parents and everyone else at the awards ceremony."

Communication Professional of the Year

This award recognises registered communication professionals who have provided consistent, positive contributions to high-quality language access services. This award is open to registered communication professionals who have played a significant part in the provision and development of communication with deaf and deafblind people. Nominations might include speech to text reporters, interpreters, notetakers or lipspeakers.

Sponsored by:

NRCPD

The National Registers of Communication Professionals
working with Deaf and Deafblind People

2009 winner

Sara Scanlon has been a committed lipspeaker for over ten years. She has made a significant contribution to the Association of Lipspeakers previously serving as the association's chair and now in her role as Honorary Secretary. She is working to secure the future of her profession by developing a sustainable training programme for lipspeakers.

"It is hugely satisfying to be able to facilitate communication between deaf and hearing people," says Sara. "I love the variety of the job; I do something different each day and have met some really inspirational people".



Organisational Achievement

This award recognises an organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector which, through leadership or endeavour, have made a significant contribution to achieving a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access.

2009 winner

Already winners for their diversity work at the Chief Constable Awards in 2008, Hertfordshire Constabulary won this award in 2009 having made a huge impact on the local deaf community by launching their Emergency SMS System, giving deaf people full access to the police in times of the most acute need. A great number of staff have already undertaken deaf awareness courses and their twenty Link Officers aim to break down communication barriers.



“We are extremely proud to have recognition of initially being shortlisted, but to discover that we actually won the award is tremendous news for us,” said Detective Constable Beccy Driscoll.

Our new awards for 2010...

Young Learner of the Year

Every learner is a step closer to a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access. This award recognises the enthusiasm and achievements of learners, aged 16 years and under, studying our qualifications.

Sponsored by:



Centre of the Year

High standards, commitment to quality in teaching and the learning environment, outstanding results, and development of staff, teachers and learners are hallmarks of the outstanding work many centres undertake. This award recognises the centres which achieve excellence in the provision of our qualifications and support our vision.



Awards ceremony

Our glittering Signature Annual Awards ceremony will take place in November 2010.

The awards will be presented in London where winners from each of the seven categories will be announced. We will welcome family and friends to join them in celebrating their outstanding achievements.

Tickets will be on sale in August 2010.



“Our winners very much deserve all the praise they have received. More than 200 nominations were made across all categories and all our finalists deserve credit for their achievements.”

Jim Edwards, Chief Executive

The **2009 Signature Annual Awards** ceremony was a huge success. With 150 nominees and guests packed into the exquisite Private Rooms of the Crowne Plaza Hotel Buckingham Gate, the atmosphere was electric. It was a great night for everyone who is working to achieve a society in which deaf people have full access.

Four outstanding individuals and one organisation received recognition for their efforts to create a more accessible society for deaf people. The awards recognised organisational achievement, teacher of the year, learner of the year, communication professional of the year and outstanding achievement.

How to nominate

The Signature Annual Awards would like to know about those who have inspired you. You can nominate someone you know, an organisation you are familiar with or even yourself.

If you know of someone whose contribution should be recognised, nominate them now. You can either complete a form online or if your preferred language is BSL or ISL, nominations can be made on DVD.

Closing dates

Nominations for the Teacher of the Year and Learner of the Year awards close on **Wednesday 21 April 2010**.

Nominations for the other five awards close on **Wednesday 30 June 2010**.



Learn more or nominate now at

www.signature.org.uk/awards