

NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
— OF CENTRAL —
LANCASHIRE



Turning your life around

Gerald Vaughan changed his life completely when he took early retirement from the civil service. He got the teaching bug after working for an IT training company and decided to take things one step further by enrolling on a Certificate in Education course at Burnley College. Now Gerald, 61, from Briercliffe is doing so well that he's been given a special award at a ceremony at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston.

Gerald, now working as an IT tutor at Burnley College, was presented with the Tim Curtis Award for Outstanding Progress. The Awards are presented annually, as a lasting memorial to a former Deputy Director of the University who died of Leukaemia and who was passionate about extending access to higher education to people who may have missed their chance first time round. Each year nominated students from the University's partner colleges, who have performed particularly well in the face of difficulty, are presented with a certificate and a cheque for £150.

A fellow award winner from Burnley College was mature student Joanna Ridehalgh, who was given the Partnership Award, also for outstanding progress. Joanna, originally a pub landlady has always wanted to work with children. She went back to college to take a two-year Higher National Diploma in Childhood Studies and has now progressed to the University to take a degree in education. She eventually hopes to become a teacher.

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Note to editors: Digital image attached – Joanna Ridehalgh, John Wilkinson (Burnley College) and Gerald Vaughan at the special Awards Ceremony in Preston.