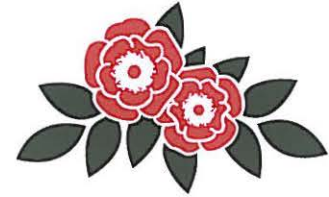


NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY
— OF CENTRAL —
LANCASHIRE



Launch of Young Volunteer Challenge

You are invited to the launch of an exciting new scheme to help young people in East Lancashire get the chance to learn new skills, put something back into the community and even have fun, by spending up to nine months working as full-time volunteers.

Focusing on community regeneration, Young Volunteer Challenge (YVC), funded by the Department for Education and Skills and piloted by the University of Central Lancashire is aimed at youngsters aged 18-19 finishing college or training (or up to 21 with special needs and learning difficulties), who would traditionally be excluded from the chance to volunteer full-time due to financial circumstances.

Young volunteers all over East Lancashire will be able to take up high quality placements with charities and local government agencies, developing their skills for further learning or employment. In return for giving their time, the young people would receive an allowance of £45 per week, appropriate training and skills development to help them in their future career and a 'golden handshake' if they complete the scheme successfully.

Members of the press are invited to the official launch on Thursday 7 August 2003, in the Conference Suite, Burnley College, from 11.00 am to 12 noon. Refreshments will be provided. There will be a chance to meet the young people and agencies involved. For more information, please contact Christy Evans, tel: 01282 831644 or 07788830247.

-ends-

4 August 2003

nr075pc

Notes:

1. The Volunteer Unit at the University of Central Lancashire is working with partners in the community to implement the programme. These include Coldwell Activity Centre, Pendle Training in Nelson, Millennium Volunteers in Blackburn and Groundwork Rossendale. Key partners will be available for comment at the press launch.
2. The scheme targets young people from low income backgrounds. Volunteers will be recruited from Rossendale, Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle and Blackburn with Darwen.