

## Innovation 50 project all set to back SMEs

THE Innovation 50 project has been launched to support small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Essex. Over the next three years, the project – the result of a partnership between Essex County Council's Essex Innovation Programme (EIP) and Anglia Ruskin University – aims to identify and support the 50 most successful SMEs in the county.

Applications for Innovation 50 membership are now open. Businesses operating in any sector that can demonstrate growth and innovation are encouraged to apply.

Benefits include:

- Free business mentoring from the EIP
- Academic and business expertise from Anglia Ruskin
- Publicity and profile-raising
- Networking opportunities to extend contacts in the business community
- Innovation 50 achievement accreditation.

Clr Kevin Bentley, deputy leader of ECC and the council's cabinet member for economic growth, said: "The launch of this project will give a major boost to some of the top small businesses in Essex."

**BIG IN SMALL:** Tina Dulieu with her coaching award



# SME coach picks up industry award

## Coaching Dynamics a winner for Tina Dulieu

By Michael Jarvis

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**A** BUSINESS coach who has helped some of the most successful small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in East Herts and West Essex has been recognised with an international award.

Tina Dulieu, who has run Coaching Dynamics since 2007, picked up the Small Business Coach of the Year title at the International Coaching Awards.

The ceremony at the glitzy Latimer Place hotel in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, was organised by The Coaching Academy, which has

students in more than 60 countries.

Tina, from Ongar, said: "Each and every day in my work, it is my mission to help business and management clients grow, develop and be more successful in their business or role. Rarely is the spotlight turned on me.

"The award was a true accolade as it was given by my own profession in recognition of the successful work I have done with businesses over the last eight years."

Tina gained business experience in the early years of her career through work with the BBC, Capital Radio, Longman Books and BP.

### Degree

In 1983, she took a Bachelor of Education degree, majoring in maths. She went on to teach high school and college level maths for 12 years.

Tina then went to Kumon Educational, an international organisation with 50,000 students and 550 centres in the UK, and

launched her own Kumon franchise.

That went from strength to strength over the next decade, and Tina was nominated for Epping Forest Business Woman of the Year in 1997 and 2002. In 2006, having achieved her goals, Tina sold the franchise.

The next year, she became a licensed business trainer and set up Coaching Dynamics, which has since been responsible for the accelerated growth of many SMEs.

Among those to have benefited are AV UK, based in Start Hill, Bishop's Stortford, Team 2 Clean, in Takeley, Novo Construction, in Standon, and Diamond Pharma Services in Harlow. Tina said: "It's down to each and every one of my clients, present and past, and their successes that I have been recognised for my work in the world of business."

She picked up a glass trophy and certificate at the awards, watched by proud husband Stephen, daughter Marie-Louise, 23, and son Richard, 28, who flew back from a trip to Amsterdam especially.

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