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Shortlist for deaf communications awards scheme announced

People recognised for their achievements in deaf communication are a step closer to winning a prestigious award.

Signature, the charity that champions excellence in communication with deaf people, has announced the shortlists for its Learner of the Year and Teacher of the Year regional categories as part of the Signature Annual Awards scheme.

The quality of entries to these regional categories has impressed judges who have been tasked with drawing up the shortlist from the overwhelming number of nominations received.

The awards are designed to recognise and reward those who have made, in their own way, a significant contribution toward achieving a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access.

The shortlist for the Learner of the Year category has exceptional entries from across the country and from a variety of fields including teaching, nursing and policing. While Teacher of the Year has attracted record nominations for strong candidates who have inspired colleagues and students alike with their commitment.

The regional winners will be announced on June 2 and will then progress to the national awards night which takes place in London on November 12.

As well as the top learners and teachers of communication methods used by deaf and deafblind people, registered communication professionals, educational

establishments, individuals and leading organisations are also being put forward for their work with the deaf community.

Signature Chief Executive, Jim Edwards, said: “We’ve been thrilled by the variety of teachers and learners nominated for the Signature Annual Awards this year.

“These individuals are truly remarkable and have clearly made a huge impression on the people who nominated them. It will be hard to pick our winners as they all deserve so much credit.”

Signature operates throughout the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands.

People can study for Signature qualifications at more than 700 locations and the organisation also administers the National Registers for Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind people.

Full details of the awards and how to nominate for them can be found at www.signature.org.uk/awards.

Release issued by Gravity Consulting for Signature. For further information including specific details of Signature’s work in your region, please contact Tom Boden or Stan Abbott at Gravity, on 0191 383 2838, or email tom@gravity-consulting.com or stan@gravity-consulting.com

Editors’ notes

- 1) **Awards:** Nominations for **Teacher of the Year** and **Learner of the Year** regional awards closed on April 21 with the shortlist announced on May 5. Regional winners will receive certificates as well as progress to the final. Nominations for national categories (listed below) close on June 30 with shortlist announced July 28.
- 2) **Winners** in each category will be selected from the shortlists by a panel nominated by Signature and will be announced at the awards ceremony, where family and friends can join all those shortlisted to celebrate their outstanding achievements.
- 3) The **Joseph Maitland Robinson Award for Outstanding Contribution**, named after signature’s late benefactor, recognises outstanding contribution toward achieving a society in which deaf people have full access. Nominations can be individuals or organisations and might include teachers, companies, communication professionals, volunteers, charities or associations.
- 4) The **Communication Professional of the Year** award recognises registered communication professionals who have provided consistent, positive contributions to high-quality language access services.

- 5) The **Organisational Achievement** award recognises an organisation in the public, private or voluntary sector which, through leadership or endeavour, has made a significant contribution to achieving a society in which deaf people have full access.
- 6) The **Centre of the Year** award recognises the centres which achieve excellence in the provision of Signature's qualifications. 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.
- 7) The **Young Learner of the Year** award recognises the enthusiasm and achievements of young learners, aged 16 years and under, studying for Signature qualifications. Every learner is a step closer to a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access.
- 8) **Signature** is a charity registered in England and Wales, and Scotland. It promotes excellence in communication with deaf and deafblind people so its vision of a society in which deaf people have full access can become a reality. It encourages greater understanding of deaf and deafblind people and the languages and communication methods they use.
- 9) Signature offers **nationally recognised qualifications** in subjects such as British Sign Language and speech to text reporting, which more than 30,000 learners study at more than 700 locations across the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands each year.