



July 27th, 2015

Adrian's award for nursing excellence

A former painter and decorator who went to university at the age of 40 to do a nursing degree has received an award for excellence.

Adrian Anim, who is now working as a community nurse in South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's learning disability service, was one of five Northumbria University graduates who were presented with the prestigious Heath Award for their efforts in both practice and theory while training to become nurses and midwives.

The student nurses were selected by seven trustees, who considered their academic grades and supporting letters from course tutors, hospital staff and patients with whom they worked while on placement.

Principal Lecturer Michael McGovern said: "They are all excellent students, both clinically and in their academic work. Their work was consistent across the three years of the course and they truly deserve this award."

As well as working as a painter and decorator for many years, Mr Anim was a support worker for adults with learning disabilities and a foster carer and it was this experience that led him to consider nursing as a career.

He said: "I felt I had to learn more and do more but I left school with no qualifications so it was a massive achievement for me when I was accepted for the university course. I found it overwhelming at first but I received great support from my tutors and my peers and for three years I just knuckled down and worked non-stop. All the hard work was worth it because I now have a rewarding job that I love."

He added: "When I got the letter saying I was going to receive a Heath Award, I had to read it over and over again because I couldn't believe it. I feel very honoured and it just goes to show that you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it."

The Heath Awards, which are presented annually, are provided through a legacy from South Shields-born George Yeoman Heath, who died in 1892. A surgeon and teacher, he was President of the College of Medicine in Newcastle and the first Professor of Surgery to the University of Durham College of Medicine in Newcastle.

Mr Anim, of Newcastle, also received an award at his graduation for best academic student and he was a finalist in the Learning Disabilities category of the Student Nursing Times Student Awards 2014.

ends



Pictured above: Adrian Anim, a winner of the prestigious Health Award

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

For press enquiries on this release, contact 0191 404 1128 or email kay.jordan@stft.nhs.uk