

Groundbreaking course helps Swansea mum tune into new career

A Swansea course aimed at helping women break into non-traditional careers has been praised for highlighting what the UK is doing to create a fairer and more equal society in the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All.

With the digital TV switchover starting soon, mum -of-two Angela Rees has already made sure that she is ahead of the game by equipping herself with the skills to help thousands of homes across south Wales move from analogue to digital.

The single mum of twin boys decided to try her hand in a traditionally male-dominated industry as a way to get back into full time employment and enrolled on a taster course in Satellite and Digital Aerial Installation at Swansea College as part of Chwarae Teg's Ready SET Go initiative, part-financed by European Structural Funds, Careers Wales and Welsh Assembly Government.

From there Angela completed a more in-depth course in Electronics and Digital Aerials at the college and has recently started an apprenticeship with Elite Aerials of Swansea.

Angela said: "The taster sessions meant that I didn't have to commit to a full time course and could fit in learning around my seven year old sons' school needs.

"My friend found the information on the taster course and knowing I was keen to get back into full time work, it seemed to be the first step I needed to get back on the career ladder.



As an installations engineer, Angela's role will include the installation of digital and satellite aerials as well as the repairing and maintenance of cabling sky, free view and TV aerials.

Angela explained how the course not only equipped her with basic electronics and aerial knowledge needed, but also prepared her for the world of work.

"Chwarae Teg was able to provide me with career advice and further training options even before I finished the taster session. I'm now working with Elite Aerials as a trainee installations engineer shadowing a senior engineer, but as soon as I have completed my 'on the job' training I will be out working on commercial and residential contracts across the whole of south Wales.

"I've always been pretty good when it comes to fixing and installing TVs, satellite and aerials so this seemed to be a natural career choice. I love watching television and there's nothing better than watching your perfect programme with a perfect picture." said Angela.

The introduction to Basic Electronics – Digital Installation course at Swansea College was one of 30 short courses delivered by the Ready SET Go project, which worked in partnership with colleges, businesses and training providers.

The three-year programme has helped more than 300 women gain an insight into traditionally male dominated industries.

Bev Pold, business development manager at Chwarae Teg said: "The Ready, SET, Go (RSG) project proved to be an excellent way of getting women to consider alternative careers, and tackle wider gender stereotyping at work.

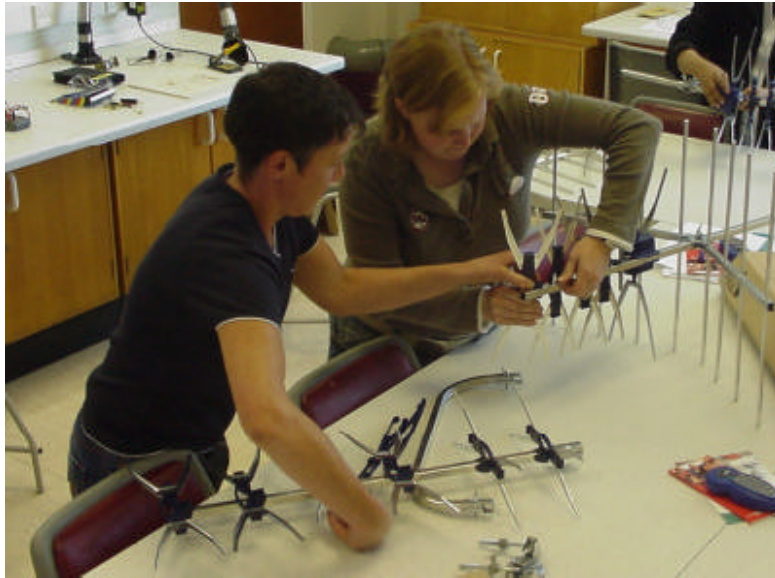
The project received a grant from the European Union's Objective One Programme through the Welsh Assembly Government with match-funding from the Department of Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills and Careers Wales



“It really did offer something for everyone from an introduction to construction skills, motor maintenance and firefighting, to conservation, carpentry and digital photography. Angela is an excellent example of what we wanted to achieve through the RSG project, she attended the Basic Electronics – Digital Installations course, then furthered her training and is now in employment.”

For more information about Chwarae Teg’s programmes that support, develop and expand the role of women in the Welsh economy, visit www.chwaraeteg.com.

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Participants get to grips with aerial assembly at Swansea College

Notes to editors

1. The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All is a pan European Union project, funded by the European Commission. The Department for Communities and Local Government, the CEHR and other partners in England, Scotland and Wales are working in collaboration to mark the Year. For further information visit <http://www.cehr.org.uk/content/european.rhtm> and http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?language=EN

2. The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All is based around four themes:

- **Rights** – raising awareness of the right to equality and nondiscrimination, and the problem of multiple discrimination
- **Representation** – stimulating the debate on ways to increase the participation of under-represented groups in society, in particular groups that are victims of discrimination
- **Recognition** – celebrating and accommodating diversity and equality
- **Respect** – promoting a more cohesive society

3. The CEHR is a statutory body established under the Equality Act 2006. It assumes its full powers from October 2007, including taking over the responsibilities of Commission for Racial Equality, Disability Rights Commission and Equal Opportunities Commission.

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The CEHR is the independent advocate for equality and human rights in Britain. It aims to reduce inequality, eliminate discrimination, strengthen good relations between people, and promote and protect human rights.

The CEHR will enforce equality legislation on age, disability and health, gender, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender status, and encourage compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998. It will also give advice and guidance to businesses, the voluntary and public sectors, and to individuals. For more information visit www.cehr.org.uk.

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