AWARD FOR WOMAN LEARNING TO READ IN HER 60s

Moon Lim Englefield, aged 64, from Gosport, lived in the UK for many years without being able to read, but she was inspired after seeing someone else learning to read and is now writing a book about her life. Her remarkable learning achievements are being recognised with a South East Regional Individual Learner Award as part of Adult Learners’ Week 18 - 24 May 2013.

Moon was born in Singapore and was never able to go to school to learn to read. Aged 17 she met and married an English sailor and then moved to England. Working as a cook in an old people’s home, Moon overcame not being able to read by bringing recipes home for her daughters to read to her so she could memorise them. When Moon overheard a young man being taught how to read in a library, she bravely approached the reading coach and asked if she too could learn. At 63 years old, Moon began to learn to read with Linda Curtis from local literacy charity Read and Grow, using the ‘Yes We Can Read’ teaching tool. Within weeks Moon could read basic books but what excited Moon was being able to read road signs and television programme titles.

“I have learned to read at a late age in life, but it has made so much difference to me,” said Moon, who is now writing a book about her life, with Linda’s help.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said, "The achievements of this year’s NIACE Adult Learners’ Week winners are inspirational. Each winner demonstrates the life changing benefits education offers.

"To make it easy for anyone wanting to re-train, or to choose a new course of study, the National Careers Service is on hand and in its first year has advised 800,000 people on what options are open to them.”

David Hughes, NIACE Chief Executive, said, “Each and every year during Adult Learners’ Week we are reminded, by all the award winners’ stories, just how much
people can improve their lives through learning. It helps them become more involved in their communities and often gives them a brighter future to look forward to. I hope their dedication, enthusiasm and desire for a better life inspires others to take up learning and transform their own lives as well.”

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For further information about Moon Lim Englefield please contact:

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For further information about Adult Learners' Week please contact:

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Notes to Editors

1. Moon Lim Englefield will be presented with a South East Regional Individual Learner Award at the Adult Learners' Week Regional Award Ceremony, at the Museum of London between 2.30pm and 4.30pm on Tuesday 21 May 2013. Journalists and photographers are invited to attend the event. More information is available from Ed Melia on 0116 204 4248 or 07795 358 870 or ed.melia@niace.org.uk

2. Adult Learners' Week, 18 – 24 May 2013, is the largest annual celebration of adult learning in the UK. It is supported by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, European Social Fund, The National Careers Service, BBC, NOCN and OCR.

3. The European Social Fund (ESF) is a core sponsor of Adult Learners' Week. In England, in 2007-2013, the ESF will invest £2.5 billion in jobs and skills and is giving people the support and tools they need to turn their lives around.

4. The Government set out in the Budget the importance it attaches to local solutions for local growth. Local Enterprise Partnerships are at the heart of this agenda. That is why the Government is going to give them responsibility for the delivery of a large part of the new round of Structural and Investment Funds for 2014-2020. Local Enterprise Partnerships will be responsible for designing and delivering strategies on how best to use this funding with one of the key priorities being skills. For more information about the ESF and its funding opportunities, activities and achievements visit: www.dwp.gov.uk/esf

5. The National Careers Service is available to everyone aged 13 and over across England. It provides independent, impartial advice and support on learning and work, based on the needs of the individual, and access to a wide range of information about careers and the job market. The service can be accessed online, including through webchat, on
nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk and over the telephone, free from a landline, on 0800 100 900, between 8am to 10pm, seven days a week. Adults can receive face-to-face guidance in their community. You can ‘Like’ the National Careers Service on Facebook and follow on Twitter.

6. Events for Adult Learners’ Week 2013 are listed in the interactive online event diary at www.alw.org.uk/events where you can search by keyword, your preferred date and by the region you live in. Or call The National Careers Service free on 0800 100 900 to find Adult Learners' Week events in your area.

7. The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) is an independent charity which promotes adult learning across England and Wales. Through its research, development, publications, events, outreach and advocacy activity, NIACE works to improve the quality and breadth of opportunities available for all adults so they can benefit from learning throughout their lives. www.niace.org.uk