

**The NITAs are back!
We're open for entries to find
the best in Training and
People Development in the
licensed trade**



The BII are delighted to announce that the National Innovation in Training Awards competition for 2017 is now live, with finalists once again hosted at the glamorous Café de Paris, London on the **21st of November 2017**.

The BII is collaborating with leading online industry news service Propel and one of the U.K.'s leading training companies, CPL Training Group, to highlight and celebrate individuals and businesses in the sector who put their people first. This is in line with the BII's on-going pledge to raise standards and professionalism across the industry, as well as share best practice in training and people development.

We are calling on all those who provide really great training in the licensed on trade in the U.K., whether individuals, training organisations or pub companies. Judges will be looking for examples of those who truly put people at the heart of what they do; investing in their teams, innovating, motivating and striving for training excellence.

The award categories for the 2017 competition are as follows:

Best Training Programme - Leased & Tenanted Companies under 200 outlets

Best Training Programme - Leased & Tenanted Companies over 200 outlets

Best Managed Training Programme Companies under 50 outlets

Best Managed Training Programme Companies over 50 outlets

Trainer of the Year Award

Best Apprenticeship Training Programme

Best Casual Dining Training Programme

Franca Knowles Supreme Award

The Franca Knowles Lifetime Achievement Award is an industry recognition award; the winner will be chosen by a panel led by Keith Knowles, CEO and founder of Beds & Bars. The award will identify and recognise an individual who leads by example and can demonstrate that people are at the core of what they do. The award is in memory of the late Franca Knowles, who herself was a multiple winner of NITA awards and was passionate about people and training.

BII CEO Mike Clist commented: *“We’re very excited to be launching the 2017 competition. The NITAs are a key platform which not only help us highlight how vital the training and development of staff is to our industry, but crucially demonstrate that hospitality can offer individuals a rewarding and varied career- it’s so much more than just a job.”*

Daniel Davies, Chief Executive of CPL Training Group, said: *“It’s a pleasure to be working alongside the BII and Propel to launch this year’s NITAs. Hospitality has always been a trailblazer of learning and development – an industry which equips employees with the skills they need to progress and realise their career potential. The NITAs is the ultimate benchmark for training ingenuity in the industry – rewarding individuals and businesses who deliver outstanding mentorship and development for their people.”*

Commenting on their win last year, Tim Painter HR Director at Stonegate added: *“We were delighted to be recognised at the 2016 NITAs as the best Managed Company for Training. To win such an accolade in an industry which is so committed to developing young talent is a real honour.”*

Entrants have until the **1st of September** to complete their entries and can enter more than one category for consideration; criteria for each award and entry forms can be found at www.bii.org.

Each category will have a judging panel consisting of industry experts who will decide who has best showcased their knowledge, understanding and enthusiasm for their respective category. Finalists will be announced before the end of September and will need to be available on **October 19th** to attend the NITA finals judging day.

We wish all entrants the best of luck!

ENDS

Notes to editors:

The BII is a membership organisation for individuals working in the licensed retail sector, with over 9,000 individual members running premises across the UK - predominantly tenanted, leased, managed and freehold pubs. The organisation provides free helplines, online business support, and guidance on key industry issues, face-to-face networking opportunities and savings on a range of supply deals for its members. It is the only organisation of its kind to represent the individuals working at the front line of licensed retail.

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