



## Press Release

18 May 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Illustration student wins at Guide Dog Awards

First year BA (Hons) Illustration student at Leeds College of Art, Kimberley Burrows, has won the Life Changing Partnership Award at this year's national Guide Dogs Annual Awards.

The award was presented by Dame Mary Perkins, co-founder of Specsavers, to Kimberley at a glamorous awards ceremony at the Hurlingham Club in London and was hosted by Good Morning's Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield.

Kimberley joined the College on the Access to HE Diploma (Art & Design), which led to her successfully gaining a place as a BA (Hons) Illustration student. She qualified with her dog Tami in late 2014, and credits Tami with enabling her to make the brave decision to move away from her home in Manchester, to study at Leeds College of Art.

**Kimberley Burrows said:** "It meant so much to even be nominated, never mind winning! Words cannot describe how honoured I am. It feels like such a celebration of the exhaustive journey I've had over the past four years; finally coming to terms with my severe sight impairment and taking steps to battle my social anxiety, learning to read Braille and use accessible technology, cook and prepare food safely and use a cane for a better sense of mobility. Along the way I rediscovered my love of illustrating and, even though the process is very difficult for me with such a small amount of sight, I find it so rewarding. Tami came into my life and catapulted the change I needed to finally be the confident and independent person I am today."

Watch a short film about Kimberley and the transformational affect her guide dog, Tami, has had on her life - [Life Changing Partnership Award](#) or [read more about Kimberley and Tami](#).

**Commenting on the Guide Dogs Annual Awards 2017, Steve Vaid, Guide Dogs Acting Chief Executive, said:** "It is always a highlight on the calendar when we get the chance to hear heart-warming stories and celebrate the incredible achievements of the people we support and those who help support out charity's life-changing work. Whether it's getting out to meet friends, fulfilling career ambitions or helping others, Guide Dogs make sure there is enough support so that no one is left out of life because of their sight loss."

### Editor's Notes

**For more information or images contact: Andrew Craske, Head of Marketing & Communications on 0113 202 8144 or 07920 766 323**

The Guide Dogs Annual Awards is a great way to raise vital funds and celebrate the work of the charity Guide Dogs and honour the passion and determination of everyone who makes its life-changing work possible. Among those being honoured for their amazing achievements at the award ceremony were guide dogs and their owners, My Guide partnerships - which partner a trained sighted volunteer to help someone who is blind or partially sighted achieve their goals; and many of the fantastic people and organisations that support the work of the charity. Every hour, another person in the UK loses their sight. Guide Dogs is there to make sure they don't lose their freedom as well. Every hour, another person in the UK loses their sight and if this happens to you, Guide Dogs is there to make sure you don't lose your freedom as well. Guide Dogs is a UK-wide charity, founded in 1934, and we're specialists in giving people who are blind or partially sighted the means to live life on their own terms and to step out into the world again. Find out more at [guidedogs.org.uk](http://guidedogs.org.uk).

Leeds College of Art Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. Today, Leeds College of Art remains one of only a few remaining independent art schools in the UK, leading the way as a centre for art and design education. The College has an impressive history of notable past students, Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth were students in 1919 and 1920. In later years Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr all studied at the College, known then as the Jacob Kramer College. The College's recent graduates continue to win prestigious international awards year on year and enjoy successful careers in the creative industries. Leeds College of Art has recently started of building works on a new £22 million state-of-the-art expansion, due to be completed by summer 2018. This new build is the biggest capital investment that the College has ever embarked upon and has been two years in development. The expansion marks the start of an exciting journey for the College, with plans in place to become the only specialist arts university in the North of England. [www.leeds-art.ac.uk](http://www.leeds-art.ac.uk)