

In her words: ***“Women can provide the solution to the skills crisis and it’s time that more were encouraged to work in skilled sectors. The ECA recognises this, and is dedicated to introducing a real solution that gives women the opportunity to play an equal part.”***

***“We need to act now before it’s too late to prevent further erosion of the industry’s skills base... Challenging the perceptions and creating a flexible route into the industry is essential if we are to reverse the effects of an ageing workforce and declining apprenticeships.”***

### About Diane

Diane Johnson, ECA Skills Ambassador, is the driving force behind the ECA’s “Wired for Success” initiative, aiming to encourage more women to work in the electrical industry. This initiative is her legacy after her presidential year ended in May 2011. Diane was also the first Chairwoman of the ECA’s Northwest Region from 2008 and ECA senior Vice-President for 2009-10.

#### Areas of expertise:

- Skills and training
- Apprenticeships
- SME business
- Management
- Fair payment
- Retentions

She is financial director of Eric Johnson of Northwich Ltd., one of the oldest family-owned businesses in the Northwest, which has provided commercial, industrial and domestic electrical contracting services to the region for over 60 years.

Diane is actively involved in the ECA at board level, and is recognised as both an informed spokeswoman on behalf of SMEs in the industry and a robust commentator on skills, apprenticeships and industry issues.



### Industry achievements

- First female President of the ECA
- Is a trustee of the Electrical Safety Council (ESC) and member of the ECA Education & Training Committee
- Was a director of SummitSkills between 2006 and 2009
- Has been appointed as ECA representative on the board of National Electrotechnical Training
- In 2007, contributed to UK parliament’s Education and Skills Select Committee at the House of Commons and the House of Lords on Post Sixteen Plus Training
- Interviewed as an industry case study for investigative journalism features on the Radio 4 File on 4 show regarding government funding and Channel 4 Dispatches concerning apprenticeships
- Has been featured on the BBC’s Radio 4 Today Programme, BBC News 24, Radio Five Live, BBC West Midlands and numerous national newspapers to discuss apprenticeships and the role they play in the education system
- Heavily involved in apprentice training at Eric Johnson of Northwich Ltd. – the company has been responsible for the training of more than 300 apprentices over the past 65 years

### Top of the agenda: aims and goals

- Encouraging women to enter the electrical industry and other skilled sectors
- Helping women to realise their potential to become industry entrepreneurs
- Encouraging women of all backgrounds to take up a career in a skilled industry
- Finding ways to tackle the industry skills crisis