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SODEXHO'S KATHY LAWTON RECOGNISED AS INDUSTRY ACORN

Kathy Lawton, 24, retail development manager at Sodexo has been honoured in the annual Acorn Awards which are given every year to 30 people under the age of 30, in recognition of their commitment to the hospitality industry, and are run by leading trade magazine Caterer & Hotelkeeper.

Kathy joined Sodexo's graduate programme in 2003 after having successfully completed a degree in Business Studies at Sheffield Hallam University. During the graduate programme Kathy experienced working in various of the company's divisions including business and industry, education and its leisure division where she was responsible for the day to day allocation and management of 600 permanent and agency staff at Royal Ascot.

On finishing the graduate programme Kathy secured a role as development manager within Sodexo's defence division based in Aldershot. Kathy has been instrumental in the development of the new catering, retail and leisure brand and in helping Sodexo secure new business.

Since joining Sodexo Kathy was determined to receive this accolade, she commented: "I am thrilled I have received this honour so early on in my career. Sodexo has really given me the opportunity to fast-track my career, and I look forward to continuing to work with the defence team, who have been an inspiration to me."

Andrew Leach, managing director for Sodexo Defence said: "Kathy's achievements since joining us have been considerable and we are proud to have her as a member of our team. Amongst Kathy's main attributes are the ability to handle complex projects, effective communication at all levels, outstanding organisational skills and an unfailing enthusiasm for making our business a success. When Kathy joined us she had no experience of dealing with the military, today she is a key member of the team and dealing with million pound projects and top level personnel from the ministry of defence."

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