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A New Beginning: Dvana Goes On Line

When 35 year old Katherine Bean from Colwyn Bay was awarded a doctorate for her skills in electronic engineering 5 years ago, she proved that women can have successful careers in a traditionally male dominated industry.

Now a well known expert in her field, Dr. Bean is launching her own web design and IT support business, 'Dvana Consulting', with the aim of enabling small and medium sized business to grow in an ever more connected global economy.

She said, "When I began studying for my first degree in the late 80's only 10% of the course were female. People automatically assume women in general do not want to pursue careers in computers and electronics."

Growing up in North Wales, Katherine's interest in computers began at school and after graduating and gaining a job with IBM, her career took her to the United States.

"I worked in America for 6 years, living first in Arizona and latterly in Colorado, working for major software development companies, doing software design, problem solving, management and IT. When my marriage broke up last year I decided to return home to Wales and continue my career here," explained Katherine.

Determined to use her expertise to run her own business, Katherine contacted Conwy Enterprise Agency who put her in touch with Chwarae Teg's Women's Enterprise Wales project.

One of the biggest issues facing Katherine was having moved back from the US she needed to forge a new network of business contacts.



Michelle Nicholls, Katherine's advisor at Chwarae Teg, was able to introduce her to networking groups in the area as well as encouraging her initial business ideas.

Katherine said, "The support I have received from the Chwarae Teg team has been brilliant. They have given me the personal support and advice I needed, particularly when I had a car accident last year which delayed my business plans for several months.

"There are so many differences between the way that business operates here in the UK and in the US and, thanks to the courses I have attended with Chwarae Teg, I have been able to develop the skills needed to be successful."

With hopes that the business could one day take off on an international level, Katherine is also offering graphic design, wedding stationary and IT training through the company.

Michelle Nicholls commented, "Katherine is a fantastic example of a woman who has overcome all of the stereotypes to have a highly successful career in her field. Having worked for some of the world's largest companies, Katherine has a wealth of experience which she will now be utilising to the benefit of businesses here in North Wales."

Chwarae Teg also recently launched the 'Ready SET Go' project aimed at tackling the increasing integration of women into the workforce, targeting science, engineering and technology (SET) and professions where women, like Katherine, are traditionally under represented.

As well as supporting women into careers, the project will also work with employers and teachers to reduce the barriers which still exist to female employment.



For more information contact Dvana Consulting on 01492 533725 or visit the website www.dvana.com