



DUNSTABLE ENTREPRENEUR WINS TOP BUSINESS AWARD

A Dunstable vehicle conversion entrepreneur, whose career was turned upside down when her car was crushed between two lorries, will line up alongside some of the country's most successful companies as she competes for a leading UK industry awards.

Warnerbus Limited MD Jo Wallis has been named as the East of England's Entrepreneur of the Year, an award sponsored by BT Directories.

The company is now a finalist in its category for the UK title in the Chamber Awards hosted by the British Chambers of Commerce, which were created to celebrate the UK's most successful businesses.

John Longworth, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The health of the UK's economy relies upon the confidence of our businesses to grow, invest and create jobs. That's why the British Chambers of Commerce has been working hard to ensure government makes good on its promises to encourage enterprise, and do everything in its power to help businesses grow.

"All the good things we want to see in society depend on business and wealth creation. These awards provide a snapshot of some of the most impressive companies from across the country. Many of these business owners are working day in day out to build upon the companies they have built from scratch, creating jobs in local communities, and contributing to the economic recovery we so desperately need. We're delighted to be able to celebrate the success of these companies through the Chamber Awards."

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Jo left school at 16 and joined an insurance firm as a clerk. Her career was going great guns until an accident changed everything, After years of surgery and pain her spine collapsed in 2005 and needed pioneering surgery or face permanent disability.

Her operation worked, but during that time she met inspirational people with severe disabilities - and worked out how lucky she was to survive.

Since then she has put her energies into Warnerbus, a company dedicated to minibus conversions for the disabled market. Despite a challenging market, especially facing Government cuts this year, Warnerbus' turnover and client base is increasing and has been completely transformed.

There were nine categories, backed by high profile sponsors including RBS and NatWest, BT Business, BT Directories, Dell, DHL Express, the British Standards Institution, AXA PPP healthcare and Westfield Health. The national winners will be announced at a ceremony at London's Grand Connaught Rooms on November 24th 2011.

Ends

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