

Student group wins top award

A STUDENT environment group in Newquay is celebrating after winning a prestigious national award for innovation.

The Student Invasive Non-Native Group at Cornwall College Newquay has been commended for raising awareness and reducing the impact of invasive non-native species. The students were awarded the 'best example of innovation in a science, technology, engineering and maths course or training programme' at the NEF Innovation Institute's Innovation Awards held in London.

The award was given for the work the students have done to inspire and enthuse young people to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and maths. The students take fun, interactive invasive species workshops into schools and undertake work at the college to

create action and awareness on the impacts of invasive species.

Nicola Morris, project co-ordinator for the group, said: "Invasive non-native species are those which have been introduced outside their natural range and have then spread rapidly, because they don't have the natural predators to prevent them from spreading.

"I'm sure most people have heard of Japanese Knotweed and the problems this can cause. Well there are lots of non-native invasive plants and animals out there and they are slowly affecting the biodiversity of our flora and fauna. The projects we are working on target invaders which drastically alter habitats.

"It was an absolute honour to collect the award on behalf of the incredible hardworking students who I am privileged to work with. It is great to have all the hard work recognised."



WELL DONE: Project co-ordinator Nicola Morris receives the award in London.

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