



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **New Chief Executive for Scotland's Colleges**

Scotland's Colleges has appointed a new Chief Executive, who will be responsible for managing the new merged body.

Chris Travis, who is currently Chief Executive of Enterprise North East Trust in Aberdeen, has been appointed by the Shadow Board of Scotland's Colleges, which comprises senior representative from the sector and its stakeholders.

Mr Travis will take up the reigns at the new organisation at the start of December, where he will be responsible for implementing a structure for Scotland's Colleges and ensuring its effectiveness on behalf of the 43 colleges in Scotland and their students.

Scotland's Colleges, which is based in Stirling, comprises the Association of Scotland's Colleges, the Scottish Further Education Unit, Scotland's College International and COLEG (College Open Learning Exchange Group). The new body is tasked with representing, supporting and developing the college sector in Scotland, continuing the separate strands of work previously undertaken by its component organisations under one banner.

Chris Travis commented: "I am delighted to have been appointed Chief Executive of Scotland's Colleges, excited about the challenges ahead, and confident in my abilities to rise to them. Scotland has a dynamic college sector, which abounds with examples of excellent practice, and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work in this area.

"I know the four organisations which have merged to form Scotland's Colleges have all made excellent progress in their respective fields in recent months and years, and I am sure that, together, we can continue to press forward on behalf of the colleges in Scotland, their staff and, most importantly, their students."

Chair of the Scotland's Colleges Shadow Board, Tony Jakimciw, who is also the Principal of Dumfries and Galloway College, commented: "We had an excellent response to the job advertisement, with a number of candidates of a very high standard. We are, however, confident that Chris is the right man for the job – with experience of managing a successful merged organisation and detailed knowledge of Scotland's economic and skills landscape I am sure that he will lead Scotland's Colleges to great success in the future."

Chair of the Selection Committee and of the Association of Scotland's Colleges, Ian Macpherson MBE, commented: "Everyone at Scotland's Colleges is looking forward to working with Chris; he has earned himself an excellent reputation in the North East and his track record in management speaks for itself."

## Notes to Editors

### Chris Travis - Biography

Chris Travis joined Enterprise North East Trust (ENET) in 2001, taking up the position of Chief Executive prior to the merger of the four previous Trusts in the area into one 'super trust'. ENET has since become the blue print for the future of the trust network in Scotland and is considered to be an exemplar of best practice.

Prior to taking up the post as Chief Executive of ENET, Chris was Chief Executive of Kincardine and Deeside Enterprise Trust from 1994 to 2001 and successfully transformed the Trust into one of the highest performing in Scotland.

Before taking on the challenge of a rural enterprise Trust, Chris held posts in other economic development functions in local government and the Scottish Development Agency. Chris has served on numerous technical and development groups at both a local and national level.

A graduate of Edinburgh and Aberdeen Universities, Chris's professional background is in economics and small firm growth and performance.

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