



PRESS RELEASE

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ASC CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF SCOTLAND'S COLLEGES

The Association of Scotland's Colleges (ASC) has welcomed today's announcement by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) that Scotland's college sector is 'thriving'.

The SFC reported that Scotland's Colleges offer, "high quality learning, high pass rates and skills that are valued by employers", and found that nearly all of Scotland's 43 colleges have met or exceeded their recruitment targets and report a student retention rate of between 80 and 90 per cent. SFC also found that 90 per cent of Scotland's Colleges recorded an operating surplus in 2006-07, four times the figure recorded in 2000-01.

Commenting on today's announcement, Howard McKenzie, ASC's Acting Chief Executive, said: "I am delighted that the quality of the learning experiences provided by Scotland's Colleges, and the achievements of staff and students, has been recognised by the Scottish Funding Council.

"Today's announcement is testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone who works in Scotland's Colleges and we look forward to the continued support of the SFC as we strive to deliver the world-class standard of Further and Higher Education that Scotland's Colleges are renowned for."

Sue Pinder, Convenor of the ASC's Principal's Forum, said: "Today's announcement by the SFC is a fantastic step forward for Scotland's Colleges in recognising the considerable contribution that Scotland's Colleges make to our communities and to industry.

"However, this is not a time to rest on our laurels and we will use the SFC's findings constructively as we seek to continue this sector-wide success and continue to deliver the best possible learning opportunities to help the next generation make their mark on Scotland's economy."

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