PRESS RELEASE

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Scotland's College launch Skills for a Successful Scotland

Scotland's Colleges today launch the publication of their 'Skills for a Successful Scotland' report. Aimed at emphasising the importance of Scotland's colleges in the country's economic recovery, the document highlights the ways in which educational, practical and vocational training from colleges can help drive Scotland out of the global economic slump.

'Skills for a Successful Scotland' suggests that through investment in key sectors and the development of modern apprenticeships, reskilling and upskilling of the workforce and future labour market, colleges are more crucial than ever in ensuring Scotland retains a competitive edge in a challenging climate.

Linda McTavish, Convener of Scotland's Colleges' Principal Convention states; "Scotland's colleges are exceptionally well equipped to provide skills and training to help thousands of people become more employable. Through the delivery of core skills, both educational and vocational, to meet the needs of national, regional and local job markets now and in future areas, colleges can help steer Scotland out of the recession and redevelop the economy."

'Skills for a Successful Scotland' further highlights the importance of colleges linking with the local community and businesses to respond to the local job market. Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, met today with students undertaking Modern Apprentice courses within West Lothian College, who work with local employers to provide students with academic and vocational experience in a range of courses.

West Lothian Principal, Mhairi Laughlin states: "The Modern Apprentice programmes supply students with the valuable skills necessary to work in a practical environment. We have links with many local businesses and employers and continue to build upon these. The 'Skills for a Successful Scotland' initiative not only recognises the important role that colleges within Scotland play in response to the global recession. It further indentifies the need for colleges to develop links with businesses on a local and national level to enable a response to demand for a skilled workforce in specific areas."

'Skills for a Successful Scotland' is published on 1 October 2009 and covers keys areas in which Scotland's Colleges drive the country's economy. The six key sectors identified within the report include; Creative Industries, Energy, Financial Business Services, Food & Drink, Life Sciences and Tourism.

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For more information or a copy of the brochure, contact:

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