

Press Release

For immediate use

Businesses and colleges celebrate results

A recent report concluded that, businesses which work with colleges experience significant impact to performance and staff skills, which in turn, leads to real long-term economic benefits.

The best examples of this type of partnership working were celebrated last night (24 March, 2010) at the Scotland's Colleges 'Business to College Awards' at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

The event, sponsored by the Scottish Funding Council and organised by Scotland's Colleges – the organisation which supports Scotland's 43 colleges – was part of a week-long *Scotland's Colleges Mean Business* campaign, highlighting the business support available and already provided by colleges.

Being held for the second year, both the campaign and the awards, are backed by the Scottish Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Alliance of Sector Skills Councils, Business Gateway, CBI Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Winners on the night were All 1 Smile Orthodontics, a multi-clinic practice in the Glasgow area and Coatbridge College, Jobcentre Plus in Falkirk with Forth Valley College, Glasgow-based Dawn Homes and South Lanarkshire College. Dundee College picked up an impressive four categories in partnership with Tayside-based businesses Servite Housing Association, PrintMatters McGill Electrical and Discovery Packaging and Design. Dundee College was also awarded College of the Year.

Attending the awards, Keith Brown MSP, Minister for Skills and Lifelong Learning, said: "These awards are a great way of acknowledging the huge contribution colleges make in supporting the business community, helping to secure Scotland's economic recovery and our future prosperity.

"As a Government we have always acknowledged the way colleges have stepped up to the mark and continued to deliver for learners in Scotland. In recent times, just as the demand for college places has risen, so too have colleges themselves risen to the challenge of meeting that demand.

"Too often in previous recessions, the damage to young people has lasted a generation, and sometimes a whole lifetime. We are working hand in hand with Scotland's colleges and businesses to make sure we do not repeat the mistakes of the past."

Ray Harris, Chief Executive Scotland's Colleges, said: "The Business to Colleges Awards is a great opportunity to celebrate the creative and innovative ways in which colleges and businesses are working together. Scotland's colleges provide real value

and benefits to the businesses they engage with. With a practical 'can-do' approach to solving the challenges of the businesses that operate in a modern thriving economy, they contribute a great deal towards Scotland's economy.

"The constant investment in the skills of college staff, as well as the development of many state of the art training facilities, ensures that our colleges continue to meet the demands of all the businesses they engage with."

George Campbell, owner of All 1 Smile Orthodontics, said: "Winning the award is a great reflection of the work we have done with the College. As a business we had a training need, and Coatbridge College has more than fulfilled that need. We now have a partner which can deliver staff training to very specific requirements, which ultimately will help them progress in their own careers."

Winner of the Sustained Relationship award, Stan McGill, Managing Director of McGill Electrical said: "Our continued relationship with Dundee College has had significant impact on the business. Without Dundee College's help we would not have been able to deliver our renewables strategy."

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) has provided funding worth £14 million for colleges to further develop their knowledge exchange and support services to businesses as part of a three year development programme running from August 2007 until July 2010.

Joe Mooney, Chair of Scotland's Colleges Knowledge Action Group and Principal, Reid Kerr College, said: "The awards highlight the flexible, local solution colleges are able to offer to businesses. They also underline the amount of work they do across Scotland in supporting businesses – identifying and implementing solutions to tailor-fit the company's requirements – which ultimately lead to a real step change in performance and profit.

"Colleges offer a wide range of expertise and experience and the campaign and awards are designed to encourage companies, no matter what sector or size, to contact their local college and discuss the services on offer."

Scotland's College's Mean Business is part of the wider knowledge transfer and employer engagement agendas for both higher and further education.

Businesses can obtain further information on *Scotland's Colleges Mean Business* by visiting www.scotlandscollegesmeanbusiness.com.

Ends

Notes to editors

Business to College Awards 2010

Categories

Winners

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees

Workforce Development more than 50 Employees

Sustained Relationship

Impact – Public Sector

Impact – Private Sector

Business Start Up

Innovation

College of the Year

Highly Commended

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees

Workforce Development more than 50 Employees

Sustained Relationship

Impact – Public Sector

Impact – Private Sector

Business Start Up

Innovation

Commended

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees

Workforce Development more than 50 Employees

Sustained Relationship

Impact – Public Sector

Impact – Private Sector

Business Start Up

Innovation

Business & College

All1 Smile Orthodontics &
Coatbridge College

Servite Housing Association &
Dundee College

McGill Electrical & Dundee
College

JobCentre Plus & Forth Valley
College

Print Matters & Dundee College

Discovery Packaging & Design
& Dundee College

Dawn Homes & South

Lanarkshire College

Dundee College

Gary Hoffman & Clydebank
College

ChesapeakeBranded
Packaging& Motherwell College

Dumfries & Galloway Housing
Partnership & Dumfries &
Galloway College

Ministry of Defence & Carnegie
College

Burntisland Fabrications &
Carnegie College

The Outpost & Perth College

OPITO & Forth Valley College

Orchardhead Care Home &
Carnegie College

IQA Utilities & Reid Kerr College

Scottish Water & Cardonald
College

NHS Tayside & Dundee College

Mechanex UK & Central College

Studio 19 & Adam Smith College

Northlink Ferries & Orkney

College

The Scotland's Colleges Mean Business marketing campaign was first launched in March 2009. It aims to make business more aware of the support services that exist from colleges which can help achieve a step change in performance and profit.
www.scotlandscollegesmeanbusiness.com

Independent research published in November 2007 showed that as a network, Scotland's colleges are in regular contact with more than 10,000 businesses and are providing support services worth almost £40million.

The Scottish Funding Council is responsible for allocating £1.7 billion of public funds each year to colleges and universities in support of Scottish Government priorities. The Council's funding contributes towards the costs of learning and teaching, skills development, research, innovation and other costs such as staff, buildings and equipment in Scotland's 20 universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) and 43 further education (FE) colleges. The £14 million funding SFC provided for knowledge transfer and developing employer engagement was announced in circular [SFC/30/2007](#).