

Press release**For immediate use****Business and college celebrate results**

Four Glasgow-based business and local colleges have been recognised at a prestigious national award in recognition of their partnership working which has helped the companies develop and grow.

Leading house builders, Dawn Homes and South Lanarkshire College won the Innovation category and All 1 Smile Orthodontics, a multi-clinic business, and Coatbridge College scooped the Workforce Development (Up to 50 Employees) award, while Scottish Water and Cardonald College and Mechanex UK and Central College were both commended at the 'Business to College Awards' held on Wednesday night (24 March) at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

Dawn Homes and South Lanarkshire College researched, designed and built an iconic low-energy house packed with innovative design features and micro-renewable technologies. The project has shown it is possible to produce affordable, low-energy, low-cost housing.

"Before this project, no volume house builder had researched the cost and feasibility of building affordable, market-ready, low-energy, low-carbon housing on a mass scale and in completing this project, we have proven that Dawn can deliver these types of homes to the Scottish Market." said Martin Egan, Managing Director, of Dawn Homes.

All 1 Smile Orthodontics is a multi-clinic practice across three Scottish Health Boards areas, catering for a highly specialised area of dentistry which suffers from a lack of qualified orthodontists to meet growing demand.

Following a move by the General Dental Council (GDC) to allow qualified dental nurses to study for a Diploma in Orthodontics – which would allow a nurse, under supervision, to assume a clinical role under the prescription of the orthodontist – the business approached Coatbridge College to deliver the necessary training.

The College made significant investment in state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to deliver the GMC approved training.

George Campbell, Owner of All 1 Smile Orthodontics, said: "The partnership is a model of how businesses and colleges can collaborate to achieve innovative and tailor-made solutions to meet the particular needs of a business.

"Overall the impact to our business has been significant – our staff are better qualified, we have increased productivity and we can deliver better services to our patients."

Scottish Water is the country's leading authority in household and business drinking and wastewater services.

Faced with structural reorganisation, regulatory, technological and economic changes, Scottish Water turned to Cardonald College in Glasgow, a partner they have worked with for the past 30 years.

The College responded to the company's skills needs, providing training programmes and a specific HNC qualification for those without formal higher education qualifications, so staff can progress to supervisory and managerial levels.

Paul Campbell, Skills Development Manager, Scottish Water HR and Development, said: "Cardonald College and the 30-year relationship with Scottish Water is a great example of the many excellent relationships between Scotland's colleges and businesses, and the college should be commended for their long-term commitment to excellence."

Mechanex, the heating, ventilation and air conditioning specialist approached Central College Glasgow last year to help expand its business by securing public sector contracts.

The company, which had previously concentrated on private sector business, realised that in order to maintain a steady flow of work throughout the year, tendering for public sector contracts was essential. However, Mechanex lacked the necessary expertise and time needed to meet the specific procurement process associated with the public sector.

Mechanex approached Central College because of its expertise in procurement and supply chain management to improve its chances of successful tenders.

Mechanex's managing director Alan Finlayson, said: "The support from the team at Central College has been invaluable, they researched necessary tendering information and set up opportunities for us to attend relevant workshops.

"The aim was to improve our chances of securing public sector work, but the systems and procedures we now have in place, are having a positive impact across the business. We recently won a £1.1 million contract with the John Lewis Partnership, and we are hopeful that our work with the College will put us in a strong position to bid for work associated with the 2014 Commonwealth Games."

The 'Business to College Awards', sponsored by the Scottish Funding Council and organised by Scotland's Colleges, is part of the *Scotland's Colleges Mean Business* campaign which aims to raise awareness of the support available to businesses from Scotland's network of 43 further education colleges. This year, colleges have been encouraged to take part in a week-long campaign – dedicated to highlighting the college sector's expertise, experience and facilities which are available to businesses – by staging events on campus, aimed at engaging with the local businesses community.

Now in their second year, both the campaign and awards are this year bringing together Scotland's leading business and skills organisations – the Scottish Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Alliance Sector Skills Councils, Business Gateway, CBI Scotland, Skills Development

Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority and Highlands and Islands Enterprise - to support the initiative.

Attending the awards, Keith Brown, 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."

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.

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Notes to editors

Photo Caption: L to R : Kaye Adams, Brian Mellon, Frontline (category sponsor), Craig Shankley, Dawn Homes, James Jamieson, South Lanarkshire College, Keith Brown MSP

Business to College Awards 2010

Winners

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees	All1 Smile Orthodontics & Coatbridge College
Workforce Development more than 50 Employees	Servite Housing Association & Dundee College
Sustained Relationship	McGill Electrical & Dundee College
Impact – Public Sector	JobCentre Plus & Forth Valley College
Impact – Private Sector	Print Matters & Dundee College
Business Start Up	Discovery Packaging & Design & Dundee College
Innovation	Dawn Homes & South Lanarkshire College
College of the Year	Dundee College

Highly Commended

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees	Gary Hoffman & Clydebank College
Workforce Development more than 50 Employees	ChesapeakeBranded Packaging & Motherwell College
Sustained Relationship	Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership & Dumfries & Galloway College
Impact – Public Sector	Ministry of Defence & Carnegie College
Impact – Private Sector	Burntisland Fabrications & Carnegie College
Business Start Up	The Outpost & Perth College
Innovation	OPITO & Forth Valley College

Commended

Workforce Development Up to 50 Employees	Orchardhead Care Home & Carnegie College
Workforce Development more than 50 Employees	IQA Utilities & Reid Kerr College
Sustained Relationship	Scottish Water & Cardonald College
Impact – Public Sector	NHS Tayside & Dundee College
Impact – Private Sector	Mechanex UK & Central College
Business Start Up	Studio 19 & Adam Smith College
Innovation	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](#).