

Press release

For Immediate use

Business and colleges celebrate recognition

Two East Kilbride business and local colleges has been recognised at a prestigious national award ceremony in recognition of their partnership working which has helped the company develop and grow.

All 1 Smile Orthodontics working with Coatbridge College won the Workforce Development (Up to 50 Employees) Award and Chesapeake Branded Packaging and Motherwell College were highly commended for the Workforce Development (More than 50 Employees) category at the 'Business to College Awards' held on Wednesday night (24 March) at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

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.

Already working in partnership with the College to provide a range of qualifications to the company's dental and administrative staff, new specialised courses were established to deliver the GDC approved qualifications.

The College made significant investment in state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to deliver the training which allows it to offer a range of new dental programmes.

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.

"A proportion of our staff has already successfully completed their training at the College, with others progressing with their qualifications. We also have students on placement from the College to give them experience of working in a business setting.

"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."

Following a period of refinancing, and a number of redundancies, Chesapeake which provides a range of packaging solutions and services, found that employees had become disengaged and de-motivated.

In an effort to raise employee morale during a very challenging time, the company decided to re-address its learning strategy.

As a result, the company teamed up with Motherwell Collage to form an Efficiency Through Learning partnership, offering a range of vocational courses to employees including qualifications in Administration, Customer Services, IT, Warehousing and Management.

Wilma Logue, HR Administrator and Senior Management Support at Chesapeake Branded Packaging, said: "The partnership has resulted in a more confident, committed workforce with employees who have extended their knowledge to compliment their skills. It has also allowed our employees to demonstrate the benefits of their training effectively and confidently in their day-to-day roles."

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 bring together Scotland's leading business and skills organisations – the Scottish Chamber of Commerce, the 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 - 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) Adams, Karen Nimmo, Alliance of Sector Skills Council (category sponsor), Bill Iamb, Chesapeake Branded Packaging, Wilma Logue, Chesapeake Branded Packaging, Una Welsh, Motherwell College, Keith Brown, MSP

Photo Caption: (L to R) Kaye Adams, Graham Houston, SQA (category sponsor), George Campbell, All 1 Smile Orthodontics, Jennifer Lowe, Coatbridge 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	Chesapeake Branded 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 Innovation	The Outpost & Perth College 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](#).