



## MEDIA STATEMENT

Friday 16 April 2010

### Scotland's Colleges: Response to SFC Funding Allocation for Colleges

Linda McTavish, Convener of Scotland's Colleges' Principals' Convention, stated:

"In these difficult economic times, this is a tough budget for Scottish colleges. Scotland's colleges are recognised by Ministers as being vital and central to our economic and social recovery; it is disappointing that the Scottish Funding Council has not given the college sector the same priority. Colleges will continue to play a role in developing skills and working with communities affected by the recession, however, this announcement will mean that colleges throughout Scotland will have to turn away more students than ever before.

Some colleges are particularly concerned about the apparent decision to withdraw funding programmes for young people not in education, employment or training – the More Choices, More Chances group – who are especially vulnerable in the current economic climate.

We welcome the fact that some of the additional one off funding made available to students for support has been embedded into the main funding. Rural colleges will also be pleased with the new strategic grant line to allow them to help small business dealing with challenging economic circumstances.

Further information is awaited by Scotland's Colleges on how extra funding of £15.3 million will be allocated to provide extra college places."

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**For more information, contact:**

Sarah Wright, Halogen Communications, (T) 0131 202 0120 (F) 0131 225 3757 (E) [sarahw@halogencom.com](mailto:sarahw@halogencom.com)