

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Scotland's Colleges partnership event inspires young people towards positive futures**

Scotland's Colleges has supported students from Kilmarnock College to put Curriculum for Excellence into action through a national event.

Kilmarnock College Personal Empowerment Zone Plus students, who are undertaking a Leadership in Practice Intermediate 2 Award, organised and hosted a national event to showcase organisations working in partnership with colleges throughout Scotland as part of their course.

The interactive event entitled *Empowering Students: Promoting Partnerships*, demonstrated effective partnerships between organisations and colleges from across Scotland which result in inspiring and equipping young people towards positive futures. It gave the students opportunities to showcase the progress they have made and demonstrate the skills they have gained through coming to college.

Kilmarnock College student, Linzi Slessor, said: "I feel that it was a great success and totally worth all the hard work involved in organising the day. I felt really proud standing in front of everyone and helping to host the event."

Throughout the day students showcased the benefits of closer co-operation with businesses, charities and other external organisations.

Examples included Angus College's *Measuring and Assessing Soft Skills Web Tool* which they developed with partners as part of a European project for Developing Employability Skills in Young People. The initiative was designed to build a better understanding of the needs of young people who disengage from training, education or employment. In partnership with colleges and learning centres throughout Europe, the programme was successful in developing young personal and social skills, which are needed for success in education and employment.

Other initiatives highlighted on the day included Forth Valley College's work alongside The Scottish Wildlife Trust and Helix Project and partnership working between Clydebank College and The Tulloch Trust, which provides support and motivation for young people in West Dunbartonshire.

Mark Vance, Learner Engagement Officer at Kilmarnock College, commented: "This is why I do this job. I was inspired and moved by my students. They are true stars! If we give our students a voice and platform to achieve then today's event shows the incredible results".

Kilmarnock College students also showcased their partnership with Musical Minds. The award-winning project involved learning a song in British Sign Language and performing it alongside a choir of singers who suffer from dementia. At the event, the students organised a special performance from classical tenor Martin Alered in which student Courtni Chapman signed the lyrics.

Student, Grant Smith commented: “Despite being very nervous, I felt really proud to be a part of it and to have had the chance to do something like this”.

Fellow student, Karen Clegg added: “I felt nervous but once I got into it and started to speak in front of everyone I became more and more confident, I feel so proud to have been involved”.

**-END-**

**Notes to Editors:**

Event took place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at *Scotland's Colleges*, Stirling.

**Images:**

**Image 1** – Kilmarnock College Students pose with certificates following event.

**Image 2** – A student films a presentation by Kilmarnock College students at the event.

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