

Friday 16 October 2015

Scottish Colleges receive £1m for Employment Focused Initiative

Scotland's colleges will receive £1million funding from the Scottish Government to support engagement between young people and employers. The Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training, Roseanna Cunningham MSP announced the funding package today (Friday 16 October 2015).

Colleges are instrumental in the Scottish Government initiative, known as Developing the Young Workforce, which aims to reduce youth unemployment in Scotland by 40% by 2021. Colleges Scotland made the bid for funding to the Scottish Government on behalf of the sector. The funding will be spread across all colleges and will be used to deliver qualifications and training designed to give students the skills most in demand by employers.

The funding will help colleges work in partnership with businesses in their regions to create more opportunities for young people to gain valuable real life work experience and provide pathways into employment. Employers will also be given a say in developing the curriculum to ensure students entering the job market have the right skills and knowledge.

Welcoming the funding, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland said:

“We are delighted to receive this funding, which builds on the important work that colleges are doing to develop a genuine partnership approach with schools and employers. Colleges are already doing a huge amount to engage with employers and deliver high quality learning, but this funding will help colleges create new initiatives to target the specific needs of employers in their region. The funding will support efforts to bring learners and the workplace closer together, as well as breaking down gender stereotypes around particular trades and professions. Colleges Scotland will be continuing to support colleges in the roll-out of this project.”

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For further information, please contact Joanne Buchan, Public Affairs and Communications Officer:

Tel: 01786 892012

Mobile: 07590 229 707

Email: joanne.buchan@collegesscotland.ac.uk