

Tuesday 18 July 2017

Comment on Gender Balance

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“Colleges have been working in partnership with the Scottish Funding Council to implement actions from the Gender Action Plan, and with other agencies including the Equality Challenge Unit, are focused on addressing the gender gap in key subjects where there is currently a significant imbalance.

“Across the country, colleges are creating innovative projects to encourage learners to pursue routes which they may not have thought were for them. For example to address the gender disparity in engineering courses, North East Scotland College, in partnership with Shell, runs a ‘Girls in Energy’ programme for 14-16 year olds to challenge preconceptions about the industry and introduce different career pathways, while City of Glasgow College in partnership with Equate Scotland offers an HNC Mechanical Engineering course open only to women, which combines academic learning with support for women engineers to build their professional networks. Our actions are not only aimed at women, demonstrated by Ayrshire College’s work to encourage more men to consider a career in the health and social care sector through the series of ‘Men in Care’ events.

“Supporting the Scottish Government’s ambitions of inclusive growth, Scotland’s colleges remain committed to tackling inequality by providing high quality skills and education sited in local communities. The challenge is to effect changes that will result in a real shift in the balance of people with the appropriate skills being employed at the appropriate level in Scotland’s key sectors. It is essential that we build on existing good practice and work with others to achieve gender balance as part of this commitment. While the overall gender balance of students in colleges remains broadly even, we recognise that there is more work to be done to close the gender gap in some subjects.”

ENDS

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Notes

- North East Scotland College and Shell ‘Girls in Energy’ programme: <http://www.shell.co.uk/sustainability/society/supporting-stem/girls-in-energy.html>
- City of Glasgow College HNC Women into Engineering: <https://www.cityofglasgowcollege.ac.uk/courses/hnc-mechanical-engineeringhnc-women-engineering-scqf-level-7-2017-08-28>
- Ayrshire College Men in Care: <https://ayrshirecollegeblog.wordpress.com/2016/05/16/this-man-cares/>