Thursday 26 October 2017

Comment on the STEM Strategy for Education and Training

Commenting on the launch of the Scottish Government's STEM Strategy for Education and Training, Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

"Colleges Scotland welcomes the launch of the STEM Strategy for Education and Training and the college sector is committed to supporting the STEM agenda.

"Colleges already deliver education and training in STEM subjects and work with schools and employers to encourage young people to consider STEM courses, with clear pathways into careers. The sector is being proactive in this area; for example, a number of colleges have achieved STEM Assured status, and last year the three colleges in Glasgow worked together to develop a Regional STEM Strategy and have made a commitment to deliver a strong STEM pipeline for all learners that meets the needs of employers and allows the colleges to share resources. There is also a range of good practice across the sector when it comes to achieving greater gender balance in STEM subjects such as women only engineering courses along with each college now having a Gender Action Plan in place. This demonstrates that the college sector is taking action to improve gender balance in all subjects, including STEM.

"Colleges provide a unique learning environment for STEM training, with hands-on opportunities to ensure that learners are ready to engage in the workplace or progress onto higher education."

ENDS

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Notes:

The following colleges have achieved STEM Assured status:

- Ayrshire College
- City of Glasgow College
- Edinburgh College
- Forth Valley College
- Glasgow Clyde College
- Glasgow Kelvin College
- West College Scotland
- West Lothian College

For more information about STEM Assured status, visit http://stemfoundation.org.uk/product/stem_assured

Most recently, Edinburgh College launched its own STEM Manifesto and announced its STEM Assured status on Wednesday 25 October 2017 – for more information, visit http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/newsandevents/edinburgh-college-launches-stem-manifesto/