



## **Press Release**

**23 May 2018**

# **Scotland hosts Four Nations college leaders gathering**

Today [23 May] Edinburgh plays host to a unique gathering of college leaders and education policy makers from across the Four Nations of the UK.

Sponsored by College Development Network (CDN) and Colleges Scotland, the two-day Four Nations Leadership Forum is exploring the twin challenges of a post-Brexit labour market and the ever-increasing impact of automation on the future skills needs of individuals and the wider economy.

Jim Metcalfe, Chief Executive of CDN said:

“We are pleased to be delivering this important meeting of UK college leaders along with our partners Colleges Scotland. CDN supports innovative leadership in the college sector and this event is vital in helping to extend and network that leadership.”

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, said:

“The Four Nations forum – which is being co-hosted by Colleges Scotland and our partners College Development Network – provides an ideal opportunity for colleges to co-ordinate their approach to the implications of Brexit and to discuss how the sector can successfully provide students with the right skills to meet the challenges associated with the impact of technology.”

Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville, said:

“I fully support the collaborative working of this forum, as the college sector looks to meet the challenges which Brexit will pose.

“Bringing together college leaders from the four nations presents a fantastic opportunity to foster collaboration, share best practice, and share what makes our respective college sectors thrive.”

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

- College Development network (CDN) is the national agency in Scotland that supports skills and sector development across colleges and vocational learning.
- Our mission is to maximise the impact of education for learners across the vocational and college system in Scotland.
- We have three aims, through which we deliver our mission:
  - We work to improve the quality of teaching and support for learners by developing the skills and expertise of our vocational workforce.
  - We invest in the strategic vision and performance of vocational education, by developing great emerging leaders and excellent governance structures in colleges and beyond.
  - We are a catalyst for sector innovation, by networking colleges and showcasing their expertise, connecting industry and education to boost economic growth, and empowering partnerships that join up the learner journey.
- Each year we engage with more than 5,700 members of staff working in colleges across Scotland through our training and network events. We also work with thousands of learners through our thematic projects like food and drink skills roadshows, enterprise summits and national awards programmes.
- Colleges Scotland is the collective voice for the college sector in Scotland, representing its interests with the aim that colleges are at the heart of a world-class education sector that is recognised, valued and available to all. Colleges Scotland, as the membership body, represents all 26 colleges in Scotland, which deliver both further education and around 28% of the provision of all higher education in Scotland.

[www.cdn.ac.uk](http://www.cdn.ac.uk)

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