

**Wednesday 16 March 2016**

**Colleges Scotland Urges EIS to Call Off Strike – Real Progress Has Been Made**

Colleges Scotland is calling on the EIS teaching union to call off the planned national strike, set to start tomorrow, that will be damaging to the country's 227,000 college students. There are over thirty more days of industrial action planned before the end of the academic year.

Colleges Scotland is confident that a deal can be reached with EIS, and that the strikes are therefore not required. The best way to securing a sustainable, quality teaching workforce into the future is to get back around the negotiating table. A meeting is scheduled for Friday (18 March 2016).

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland, said:

“We are under no illusion that the reintroduction of National Bargaining to the college sector is a major challenge, but one we fully support. Throughout, we have been totally committed to putting the best deal on the table to reward staff for their hard work and commitment. Crucially, the deal has to be deliverable in a financially sustainable way, both now and in the future.

“Over the past few weeks real progress has been made, and we could be on the cusp of finding a viable solution. We can deliver a sustainable pay increase now, to everyone. We will then take decisive steps towards tackling variances in pay and conditions across the sector and modernising in the longer term.

“As such, we urge EIS to call off its planned strikes that will affect students at a critical time of year – the approach to exam season.”

**ENDS**

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