



Forth  
Valley  
College

Making Learning Work

# in touch

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE  
**05**  
JANUARY  
2016

## College Awards Success!

INSIDE:

- > FVC Achieves STEM Assured Status
- > Reach the Top with FVC
- > Health and Safety: Know Your Facts
- > MA High Flyers

# CONTENTS

## PAGE 2

First Aid Effort Proves Fruitful

## PAGE 3

College Awards Success

College Achieves STEM Assured Status

## PAGE 4

Stone Me – FVC Apprentices Carve Out Medal Success

FVC Short-listed for Scottish Enterprise Life Sciences Award

FVC and Falkirk Council Partnership Wins Award

## PAGE 5

Open Evening Success

Alice Just Misses Out on MA Award

## PAGE 6

Reach the Top with FVC

New Course Launches Careers

## PAGE 7

FVC Wins Stirling Council Training Contract

Compex Foundation Course Builds on FVC's Success

## PAGE 8

Health and Safety: Know Your Facts

Automation Engineer Programme

Engineers for Industry

## PAGE 9

MA High Flyers Keep Feet on the Ground at FVC

Richy Recognised with Award Nomination

## PAGE 10

FVCtheplace...2015 In Numbers

Recipe for Success at Farmers' Market

## PAGE 11

Meet the Team: Caroline Hogg

Chinese Delegation Tours Falkirk Campus

## PAGE 12

Commercial Courses

Top Tweets

# WELCOME...

## to the latest issue of InTouch,

Forth Valley College's magazine for the business community. Discover all the latest news from the College, course features and details on forthcoming training courses.



### A chance visit to the Falkirk Campus refectory led to a life-saving manoeuvre to dislodge a pineapple chunk.

Sports lecturer and former lifeguard Grant Ralston, swung into action when he saw Catering Manager David Ross showing the classic signs of choking just after the lunchtime rush on Thursday 12 November. But at first he thought he was just at the wind-up!

David, said: "I was tucking into a bit of pineapple for my lunch when I began to choke. It went down the wrong way and it seemed like ages that I was struggling and choking. I thought I was for it, until Grant appeared and performed a first aid manoeuvre to dislodge the piece of fruit. I really can't thank him enough for saving my life. First aid skills such as these really are important and I am just grateful he was able to help."

Grant, who was a lifeguard before coming to work at the college, said: "I was just in the right place at the right time. In fact I don't usually come along to the canteen, but I was just glad I could help. David is such a wind-up merchant that at first I thought he was joking. But it quickly became clear that he was really choking and I just put my arms around his ribcage from behind and performed a wee action to force him to spit out the food that was making him choke.

"These first aid techniques are really simple and easy to learn and they could save a life. They also help you keep calm and prevent you from flapping and that is very important."



Visit the website to view the range of First Aid Courses available at Forth Valley College or call our Business Development Team on 0845 634 4444 to find out more.



## Forth Valley College have won two prestigious College Development Network (CDN) Awards.

The Annual Awards – which this year were held at The Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow on the evening of Thursday 26 November - recognise the talent, skills and achievements of colleges, their staff and learners; and provide a valuable opportunity to celebrate the outstanding projects and initiatives taking place in colleges the length and breadth of Scotland.

FVC won gold in the Essential Skills Category which recognises a college that has introduced imaginative and inspiring ways which ensure that students develop essential skills. They also scooped the top prize for the Learning and Teaching Award, which recognises a college that has implemented imaginative and creative ideas to improve the quality and effectiveness of learning, teaching and assessment.

Principal of Forth Valley College, Dr Ken Thomson said:

“We are absolutely delighted to have won these CDN awards. We have a passion for making a real difference to our learners and it’s fantastic to have this recognised throughout the sector with these awards. The Learning and Teaching gold prize in particular gives us sectoral endorsement for our imaginative and innovative cross college approach to creative learning. We really are so proud to be making learning work at Forth Valley College.”

## College Achieves STEM Assured Status

Forth Valley College has once again achieved STEM Assured Status, the industry-led quality mark for STEM training awarded by NEF: The Innovation Institute.

The College was the first learning organisation in Scotland to gain the status back in July 2012.

The prestigious standard recognises excellence in STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths) provision within the Further Education sector, with a particular focus on an interdisciplinary approach and meeting the needs of business and industry.

Forth Valley College were reaccredited after a rigorous validation process which assesses an organisations’ performance in

six key areas including strategy and planning, collaboration and consultation, innovation, design, delivery and impact.

The validation panel were particularly impressed by the College’s leadership model, innovative STEM provision, engagement with industry and significant investment in facilities.

Dr Ken Thomson, Principal for Forth Valley College said: “We’re delighted to once again achieve our STEM Assured Status. This is an excellent endorsement of the quality of the STEM provision at Forth Valley College which further enhances our reputation as one of Scotland’s most innovative colleges.”





## STONE ME... FVC APPRENTICES CARVE OUT MEDAL SUCCESS

Two student craftsmen carved their names into history at the recent Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) SkillBuild championship held in Birmingham's NEC from Thursday 19-Saturday 21 November.

Calum McKimmon (27) and Craig Derrick (27) both from Cupar in Fife – won silver and bronze medals respectively in the Stonemasonry category at the event. The pair both work for Historic Environment (formerly Historic Scotland) and are in the last year of their four year apprenticeship which includes stints at the college's specialist workshops at the Stirling Campus.

Calum, who works at Glasgow Cathedral and Craig who works at St Andrews Cathedral, had to produce drawings, templates and then work the stones by hand to produce the stone elements to satisfy the brief and were a credit to themselves, the college and their employers.

Charles Jones FVC's Training Manager, Conservation Centre Forth Valley, said: "It really was a fantastic achievement for them to come home with these medals, as they were up against tough competition from the masonry colleges down south who regularly take all medals available."

## FVC and Falkirk Council Partnership Wins Award

An innovative school portal initiative developed in partnership by Forth Valley College and Falkirk Council's Children's Services has won a Celebrating Success Award.

At a ceremony in Falkirk Town Hall on Monday 16 November the partnership team scooped the Service Improvement Award for the Schools Application Portal.

The portal is the first of its kind within the sector and has been developed by the College's Information Systems Team and was rolled out this year to all Falkirk Council high schools.

The secure portal pulls 'real time' data from existing information and displays details on applications, interviews and offers for both full-time courses and modern apprenticeships.



## FVC Short-listed for Scottish Enterprise Life Sciences Award

Forth Valley College has been short-listed in the 'Community Engagement' category at the Scottish Enterprise Life Sciences Annual Awards 2015.

The College's entry focused on a wide range of community engagement activities which have been driven by Paul Sweeney from the Department of Applied Science, Maths and Mechanical Engineering. Department Curriculum Manager Fiona Jackson put forward the nomination for the award.

**The winners will be announced at the Scottish Life Sciences Annual Dinner in February 2016.**



# OPEN EVENING SUCCESS

A series of events promoting courses and apprenticeship opportunities available at Forth Valley College attracted over 400 people recently.

The open evenings took place from 4 – 19 November with each campus hosting an event. Representatives from the College's teaching departments and Business Development Team were on hand to offer advice and guidance on the wide range of courses available at the College including full-time courses from access to Degree level, Modern Apprenticeships, evening courses, business training courses and flexible learning programmes.

In addition, support teams were available to offer careers advice and answer questions on funding, learning support and applying to college.

The College welcomed a wide range of partners from industry to promote career opportunities and current vacancies. Employers represented at the event included Forth Ports, Careline Home Support, CITB, INEOS & Petroineos, Johnson & Johnson, WGM, SP Energy Networks, Alexander Dennis, FMC, Rainbow Care Services, ECITB, Mears Group, Army Reserves, Calachem and CVS.

Skills Development Scotland were also in attendance and the event included college tours and a series of presentations on coming to college and becoming a Modern Apprentice.

Dr Ken Thomson, Principal for Forth Valley College said:

"Our open evenings offered a fantastic opportunity for people to come along and find out about the different options available to them – whether they're interested in a mainstream course or pursuing a Modern Apprenticeship.

"There was a real buzz around the campuses and we've had some fantastic feedback from people who attended the event."

**"As an exhibitor I would like to say I very much enjoyed your recent MA Open Evening as it was really well organised. I felt all the exhibitors were taken care of and staff all worked well together to provide a high level of customer service to everyone who attended the event. I was also impressed with the delegates attending the event who all seemed really well informed and clear about the information they required and was able to assist them with options and choices regarding their career development."**

**Paul Hynd, Account Manager – Scotland, ECITB**

## Alice Just Misses Out on MA Award

A Modern Apprentice (MA) at Forth Valley College has just missed out on the prestigious Skills Development Scotland (SDS) MA of the Year Award.

Alice Pezzani (20) from Bridge of Allan had been nominated in the final of the Level 2 Apprenticeship category, but was just pipped at the post at a special awards ceremony held at the Assembly Rooms in Edinburgh on Wednesday 18 November.

Alice recently completed her Business and Administration MA while working in the College's Communications and Marketing Department. She has now secured a full-time administration post within the department and has started another MA in Creative and Digital Media at the Stirling Campus.

Forth Valley College Principal Dr Ken Thomson, said: "We are so proud of Alice and it is great she was nominated for this award. Alice is an excellent example of how the MA Programme can change the lives of young people and lay the foundations for a successful career."

**To find out how your business could benefit from Modern Apprenticeships, please email [business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk) or call 0845 634 4444.**



# Reach The Top With FVC



Effective management and leadership are critical to the success of an organisation and it's essential to develop these skills if you have dreams of climbing the career ladder.

Employers need managers who can help them to operate efficiently and consistently and who have the skills to direct, motivate and support the workforce. These managers also need strong leadership skills in order to seek new opportunities and drive the business forward.

## MANAGEMENT QUALIFICATIONS

The power of good management should never be underestimated and that's why Forth Valley College offers a range of courses to support the development of new or existing managers or those hoping to make the transition to a management role in the future.

Work based programmes available for those already in a management or supervisory role include Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) in Management at Level 3 and 4. These qualifications provide the essential skills and knowledge required by managers in a wide variety of sectors. The programmes will cover a broad range of management processes and will develop the skills to manage individuals and teams effectively. Employers may also benefit from funding to help with the cost of these qualifications\* making them an attractive option for many organisations.

The College also offers flexible distance learning qualifications for new and aspiring managers from the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) – the only chartered professional body dedicated to management and leadership. These courses are highly valued by employers and range from the Certificate in Management and Leadership to the Diploma in Management and Leadership. These programmes will cover a variety of key subject areas including: personal development; decision making; managing performance; resource management; stakeholder needs; marketing; recruitment, selection and induction; and corporate social responsibility.

All the courses are designed to be undertaken whilst in employment ensuring your career doesn't need to take a back seat, as you gain a formal management qualification.

Zak Stark, Development Manager at Forth Valley College said:

"Good managers are a valuable asset to any organisation and a management qualification will help your employer to recognise your skills no matter which stage you're at in your career. You'll develop the skills to help you manage effectively and the confidence to set your vision in motion. Your employer will also benefit from improved business performance and enhanced leadership and direction.

"Our training courses are the perfect solution for achieving your own leadership and management aspirations and your employer's goals."

**For more information on our courses, please visit [www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk) or call 0845 634 4444.**

\*Eligibility criteria does apply and for further details please contact us.



## NEW COURSE LAUNCHES CAREERS

A good trainer can make all the difference to the success of a person's personal development.

A trainer needs to be able to effectively deliver and evaluate training in order to ensure it works for the individual or group.

For those considering embarking on a career in training or trainers looking to enhance their skills, Forth Valley College has the perfect solution – their newly launched City and Guilds Level 3 Award in Education and Training.

This short four day course will provide an insight into the roles, responsibilities and relationships in education and training. It will also develop skills in planning and delivering inclusive training sessions, assessing students and giving constructive feedback.

There are no formal entry requirements for the course but if candidates want to progress to teaching or training in the further education and skills sector, they will require evidence of vocational skills at the appropriate level.

There are also opportunities for progression to the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development's Certificate in Training Practice.

Zak Stark, Development Manager at Forth Valley College said:

"A training career can be a rewarding experience and an opportunity to share your expertise and passion for a subject with others. It can also be a very exciting career choice; you'll meet lots of new people and no day will be the same. Our short course will give a real flavour of what it's like to be a trainer and will pave the way for a successful career in this field."

**For more information, please visit [www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk) or call 0845 634 4444.**



# COMPEX FOUNDATION COURSE BUILDS ON FVC'S SUCCESS

## FVC WINS STIRLING COUNCIL TRAINING CONTRACT

Forth Valley College have won a contract to train Stirling Council staff in first aid techniques.

The three month contract will start in January and council staff will be offered one, two and three day courses on basic first aid and life-saving skills such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

FVC – who also provide training for Clackmannanshire Council - beat off two other providers to land the contract and have also had interest from two schools in the Stirling area to train staff.

Richy Todd FVC's Senior First Aid Trainer and the College's Veterans' Champion, said: "We are delighted to have the opportunity to train the staff at Stirling Council and are looking forward to getting started. It is brilliant to get another council on board for us to deliver high quality training to, as this will hopefully allow us to bring more forces veterans on board to help me with the classes."

Industry specialists are already taking advantage of an introduction to CompEx accreditation course at Forth Valley College.

The CompEx Foundation course – which is offered at the college's state-of-the-art facilities at the Falkirk Campus alongside a range of other accredited CompEx courses – has created a buzz among companies who have employees working in hazardous areas. The innovative course is now established as an underpinning knowledge unit only to give an overview of the requirements of working safely in an explosive atmosphere.

Fife based DPS Group who specialise in the highest standard of electrical, control and instrumentation engineering, design and project management for automation and process control of robust and reliable plant and manufacturing operations, signed up their employees for the course recently.

DPS Group are involved in various industries, which includes pharmaceuticals, oil & gas, renewable energy, chemical, power utilities, food & beverage industries and were only too happy to send a group of ten staff to receive training.

They were so pleased with the training they received that they have signed up six more of their staff onto another course.

Paul Guppy, DPS Group Instrumentation Manager, said: "We were looking for a Hazardous Areas Awareness course and after speaking with Alan Montgomery at Forth Valley College, we agreed the best way forward was the CompEx Foundation industry recognised qualification.

"The CompEx Foundation course provided my staff with a detailed overview of the subject matter. The next day my staff were back at work enthusiastically discussing the course and its benefits.

"I think it was totally worthwhile, structured well, the content was relevant and up to date and we will be looking to send more of our employees to do this course in the future."

Alan Montgomery FVC's Lead Commercial Trainer in CompEx, said: "It was a pleasure to have the DPS Group at the college. We hadn't run the Foundation course for a while, but we now feel there is a real need for it industry wide.

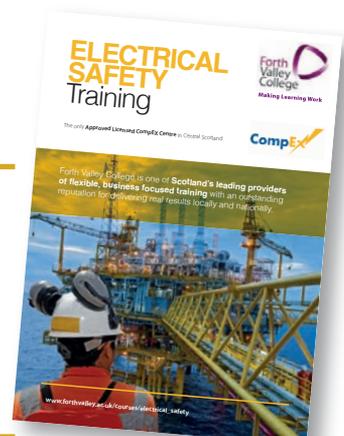
"I absolutely think that more companies should be more aware of this course especially electrical supervisors, contract managers, senior management and non-practitioners, to enable a greater appreciation of the hazards associated with working in explosive atmospheres and the promotion of safe working practices.

"This is a great stepping stone as once completed, candidates if required to do so, can come and do the more advanced Hazardous Areas core competency five day course."

**To find out more about Forth Valley College's CompEx courses visit [www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk) or call Chantelle on 01324 403173.**

## New electrical safety training brochure OUT NOW! GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

Call 0845 634 4444 or email [business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk)





# Two Exciting Engineering Opportunities

## Automation Engineer Programme

With a severe shortage of automation skills within the UK's chemical industry, Forth Valley College, Chemical Sciences Scotland and Skills Development Scotland are piloting a new Automation Engineer Programme.

The programme has been designed with chemical science companies in mind – allowing them to enhance the skills of existing automation engineers or upskill other employees to enable them to become automation engineers.

Employees would attend college one day per week for 28 weeks with the programme including both practical and theory elements. Upon completion candidates would achieve SQA accredited units.

There is no financial cost to the employer with funding being provided by Skills Development Scotland to support the Chemical Science Scotland Skills Investment Plan.

**The programme commences in February 2016 – for more information and to sign up, please contact [ronnie.palin@sds.co.uk](mailto:ronnie.palin@sds.co.uk) or [miles.lagan@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:miles.lagan@forthvalley.ac.uk)**



## Engineers for Industry

Forth Valley College and Heriot-Watt University are launching an exciting new 'Engineers for Industry' programme to develop the next generation of engineers with employers in mind.

The 2 to 5 year company sponsored programme has been designed to take account of industry needs and will combine practical skills, work experience and academic study to develop high calibre 'work ready' graduates.

Graduates will understand the 'how' and 'why' behind the activities they undertake and the time from employment to full competency will be reduced.

**The programme is available in mechanical and electrical disciplines and is flexible to allow students to study to either HND or Degree level.**

### Could your company benefit...?

The College is currently looking for companies to sponsor students and provide the work placement aspect of the programme.

**If you would like more information, please contact Richard Reid on 01324 43247 or email [richard.reid@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:richard.reid@forthvalley.ac.uk).**

# HEALTH & SAFETY: KNOW YOUR FACTS



**611,000** injuries occurred at work according to the Labour Force Survey

**76,000** other injuries to employees reported under RIDDOR

**27.3 million** working days lost due to work-related illness and workplace injury

Don't let your organisation be affected. Forth Valley College offers the NEBOSH National General Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety - a globally recognised health and safety qualification held by more than 175,000 people in the UK and worldwide.

The course is aimed at managers, supervisors and non-safety specialists with health and safety responsibilities, who require knowledge and a recognised qualification in occupational safety and health.

It will ensure they have a sound understanding of health and safety issues and the principles of risk management in order to build an effective safety culture in the company.

**The next course commences in January 2016 – visit [www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/nebosh](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/nebosh)**

\*Source: Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

# MA High Flyers

# Keep Feet on the Ground at FVC

Edinburgh Airport  
Where Scotland meets the world



A Modern Apprenticeship (MA) partnership between Forth Valley College and Edinburgh Airport has proved to be a soar-away success.

Two and a half years ago - the progressive and forward thinking Edinburgh Airport realised they would have to restructure in order to replace retiring engineering employees.

They knew they would benefit from helping to advance the skills and training of new young recruits and decided to seek a college that would suit their needs in the training of their apprentices.

FVC's Business Development Partner Lorraine Kerr was only too happy to meet with Edinburgh Airport's Engineering Integration Manager Brian Williamson and his team to outline the process of Modern Apprenticeships. The Airport team was also taken on a tour of the Falkirk Campus facilities, so they could be sure their employees would receive the best possible training.

Brian was very impressed with what he saw and a deal was signed for the airport to send their first electrical engineering MA – Nathan Charles (pictured) - to the college for his academic and practical training.

He has recently been joined by one of his colleagues Grant Campbell who started in August and is already flourishing.

Nathan said: "Forth Valley College have been very supportive and I have really enjoyed working with them. The lecturers are all straightforward and easy to understand and I am enjoying the practical side to the College. The facilities allow you to extend your knowledge on pumps and other machinery, obviously the college does not have everything there is at an airport, but it still gives you a lot of help and experience. The MA programme definitely works."

Brian Williamson, Edinburgh Airport's Engineering Integration Manager, said: "We have been in partnership with Forth Valley College for more than two years now and it has been a fantastic journey so far, it really has. It has grown into a great relationship.

"The process of taking on an MA can be quite daunting at the outset if you are not familiar with the process. But we engaged with Forth Valley College to see how they could support and assist us, and we are very happy with how things are going.

"We have been absolutely delighted with the partnership, so much so that we have decided to take on another MA who started the college in August.

"The advice I would give to other companies would be to just go for it. We should be supporting young people through the MA programme and allow them to become the engineers that we can be proud of."

Lorraine Kerr FVC's Business Development Partner, said: "I am delighted to be the Business Development Partner working with Brian and the Engineering MAs at Edinburgh Airport. Seeing both Nathan and Grant developing and maturing as they gain in confidence and experience both in College and the workplace, is very rewarding. I look forward to continue growing the partnership with Edinburgh Airport over the coming years and seeing Nathan, Grant and the future Modern Apprentices achieving their goals."

**To find out how your business could benefit from Modern Apprenticeships, please email [business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:business.development@forthvalley.ac.uk) or call 0845 634 4444.**

**To view a video of the interviews, please visit [www.vimeo.com/149296978](http://www.vimeo.com/149296978)**

## RICHY RECOGNISED WITH AWARD NOMINATION

Veteran's Champion Richy Todd just missed out on a top prize at the annual Nationwide Resettlement Awards 2015.

Forth Valley College's Senior First Aid Trainer had been selected as a finalist in The Award for Excellence in Support of Service Leavers category and was invited to the event at the Hotel Football in Manchester on Wednesday 4 November. His colleagues Alistair McKean and Danielle Abbott also attended the event.

The awards aim to recognise and celebrate the achievements of service leavers who have successfully progressed through the transition from life in the armed forces to life as a civilian.

Richy, who was in the army for 13 years before becoming a staff member at FVC, said: "I'm very proud to have been shortlisted for this award. Although I'm just doing what I can to help people that are going through the same transition that I did, it's excellent to be acknowledged for this work.

"Although this is an individual nomination, I feel that it is tremendous recognition of the brilliant work that takes place within our team here at Forth Valley College to help the troops wherever and whenever we can. It was an honour to attend this event and to continue pushing forward with helping people complete their resettlement process."



# FVC The Place... 2015 in numbers



**40 EVENTS**

**4 MEETINGS A WEEK**

**AVERAGE OF  
40 PEOPLE PER  
MEETING**

**8,000 TEAS /  
COFFEES SERVED**

**12,000 CANAPÉS  
SERVED**

For more information or to book, please call 01786 406097 or e-mail [fvtheplace@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:fvtheplace@forthvalley.ac.uk) or visit <http://theplace.forthvalley.ac.uk>

The perfect location  
for your next event...  
Give your guests the  
WOW FACTOR!

Forth Valley College offers modern,  
flexible spaces for hire at our Alloa,  
Falkirk, Raploch and Stirling Campuses  
which can be used for a wide range  
of events including:

**CONFERENCES**

**MEETINGS**

**WORKSHOPS**

**TRAINING**

**BUSINESS DINNERS**

**AWARDS CEREMONIES**

**SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

**PRIVATE DINING**

We also offer:

Catering from our award  
winning Hospitality Team

Free Wi-fi

Free Parking



## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS AT FARMERS' MARKET

Stirling Farmers' Market teamed up with  
Forth Valley College for cooking and  
tasting sessions in the city's Port Street  
during November and December.

College Head Chef Ype Vanderschaaf and  
his talented team of students worked their  
magic over a hot stove using ingredients  
from the market stalls such as wild  
venison and partridge, rose veal and  
dry-aged Highland Beef.

With the addition of other flavoursome  
market items they created delicious  
recipes and tasters for market customers  
to try and the feedback was very positive.

Craig Anderson, Business Development  
Coordinator at FVC, said: "We are  
delighted to be able to support local  
food producers/businesses in this way  
and Stirling's Farmers' Market gave an  
ideal platform for us to do this whilst  
engaging with the local community. All  
of the producers kindly donated some  
of their produce allowing our chefs to  
get creative on the day."





## CHINESE DELEGATION TOURS FALKIRK CAMPUS

VIPs – including a Vice President and three professors – from the Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology (BIPT) visited Forth Valley College's Falkirk Campus during November.

Jiangling Xie, Vice President of BIPT University council, Professor Yongping Jing, Dean of the School of Economics and Management, Professor Jiangang Li, Vice Dean, of the School of Chemical Engineering and Professor Wengang Ji, Vice Dean, of the School of Information Engineering, were met at reception by FVC Principal Dr Ken Thomson, Dean Williams, Head of the College's Electrical, Instrumentation, and Chemical Engineering Department and Andrew Campbell FVC's International Manager.

The delegation was shown round the state-of-the-art Oil and Gas Academy of Scotland facilities the campus has to offer, before Principal Thomson and Vice President Xie signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two further education establishments.

Dr Thomson, said: "We were honoured to have welcomed this prestigious delegation of academics from the Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology to our Falkirk Campus and very happy to give them a tour of our Oil and Gas and Engineering facilities - they all seemed very impressed with what they saw.

"There are many exciting opportunities available in the Chinese market and we were delighted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with BIPT to allow us to develop this relationship further."

# MEET THE TEAM

Each issue, InTouch will introduce a member of the **Business Development Team** offering an insight into what their job involves and the type of support they can offer to employers.



## Caroline Hogg

Depute Business Development Manager- Client Management

### Describe your role

My main responsibilities are overseeing the Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Contract within Business Development, managing the Modern Apprenticeship/ Employability activity attached to this throughout the year. I manage a team of Business Partners who are the key contacts between the college, employers and candidates. Our main priority is to ensure we deliver a first class service to our employers whilst supporting candidates to achieve their very best. This is evident in our high achievement rates which are above national average and our continued business from local and national organisations. Along with continually seeking opportunities to grow our business, financially and reputationally, the team is also responsible for compliance with external awarding bodies/SDS and financial claims.

### What's your background?

I was born in Ireland and I moved here about 13 years ago. Forth Valley College was my first permanent job in Scotland and I have never left! I have worked in many areas of the college including Student Services and as a Third Sector Project Manager. I studied at night at Forth Valley College to do my NC and then HNC in Business Administration. The College then supported me to attend Glasgow Caledonian University, two nights a week for four years to get my Degree in Business Management which I achieved in 2010.

### Describe a typical day at work

There is never a typical day! Business Development is a very reactive department, you could have a perfectly

planned day then a quick quote comes in through Public Contract Scotland which needs to be completed and submitted as soon as possible. A typical day includes meeting an employer to go over contracts/ new business opportunities, meetings with academic staff to plan MA delivery for next year and attending local authority meetings. I also write a lot of tenders/ reports which take up a huge chunk of my time. I am also the lead person in our department for the Stirling area so I would normally attend any relevant meetings with our stakeholders.

### What's been your biggest achievement so far?

Professionally it would be completing my degree whilst holding down a full time job, which was very challenging at times. Personally it would be having my wee girl Amelie. She's amazing and despite being 4 years old, wants to be a Chemical Process Engineer!

### Best thing about your job?

It's a very fast paced reactive environment which I love.

### Why choose training at Forth Valley College?

Our programmes are designed to meet the needs of industry, with a high standard of equipment and industry experienced lecturers; Forth Valley College has an excellent track record of being the training provider of choice for learners and businesses.

# Commercial Courses

from January – March 2016

## First Aid at Work

*(Falkirk Campus)*

27-29 January

10-12 February

9-11 March

**£195**

## First Aid Refresher

*(Falkirk Campus)*

18 & 19 February

17 & 18 March

**£165**

## First Aid Emergency

*(Falkirk Campus)*

20 January

16 March

**£99**

## First Aid Paediatric

*(Falkirk Campus)*

17 February

**£99**

## SIA Door Supervision

*(Falkirk Campus)*

1-4 February

**£200**

## 7300 Train the Trainer

*(Falkirk Campus)*

25 & 26 January

30 & 31 March

**£295**

## 6502 Level 3 Education & Training

*(Falkirk Campus)*

15 & 16 February and

22 & 23 February

**£395**

## City & Guilds 17th Edition

*(Falkirk Campus)*

29 February – 3 March

Exam – 3 or 4 March

**£610**

## City & Guilds PAT Testing

*(Falkirk Campus)*

23 & 24 March

**£345**

## Compex Foundation

*(Falkirk Campus)*

3 & 4 March

**£295**

## Compex EX01-04

*(Falkirk Campus)*

18-22, 25-29 January

1-5, 15-19, 22-26 February

29 February – 4 March

7-11, 14-18 March

**£995**

## Compex EX01-04 Refresher

*(Falkirk Campus)*

12 & 13 January

9 & 10 February

22 & 23 March

**£525**

## Nebosh General Certificate

*(Falkirk Campus)*

NGC1:

20-22 January

27 & 28 February

GC2:

3-5 February

11 & 12 February

Revision (NGC1, 2 & 3):

24, 25 & 26 February

Exam: 2 March

**£1500**



## TOP TWEETS

### WHS Futures @WHS\_Futures

Many Wallace HS pupils found out about great opps and support available at @FVCollege Stirling Campus Open Evening.

### C7 SCOTS @7SCOTS

Great evening at Stirling College Careers Fare @FVCollege with @CO\_71\_Engineer excellent support @ARHighlandTour

### Steve Dougan @georgeville

Congrats to @FVCollege & @edcommsfalkirk for winning the Celebrating Success award for the Service Improvement of the Year for our portal.

### liz smith @MspLiz

Thanks to @FVCollege @principal\_fvc @forthvalleySA for excellent visit this morning with Alexander Stewart.

### Ken Thomson @principal\_fvc

Great start to the day welcoming Cumbernauld Academy pupils to an event with SP Energy Networks and FVC. @CumberAcademy @SPEnergyNetwork

**Call: 0845 634 4444** or email  
**businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk**  
for more information or to book a course.

## Forces Friendly Training Provider



Information contained within this document was correct at time of publishing but may be subject to change.  
© Forth Valley College Communications and Marketing Department October 2015. Registered Charity Number: SC021191.



**Making Learning Work**