



Making Learning Work

in touch

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE
04
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2015

**CompEx
Courses Attract
Global Interest**



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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.

FVC OPEN EVENINGS 2015

Forth Valley College is holding a series of open evenings during November. Events details below:

4 NOVEMBER – FALKIRK CAMPUS

10 NOVEMBER – ALLOA CAMPUS

19 NOVEMBER – STIRLING CAMPUS

The College is inviting employers to the event in order to promote their Modern Apprenticeship Opportunities. If you would like to attend, please contact marketing@forthvalley.ac.uk



FVC OUT AND ABOUT

College Showcases Traditional Building Skills

Staff and students from Forth Valley College put their skills into action recently at a 'Traditional Building Skills Demo Day' Event at Ancaster Square, Callander. The college team showcased their joinery and painting and decorating skills alongside fellow members of the Forth Valley Traditional Building Forum.



Those attending the event also enjoyed stonemasonry demonstrations by Historic Scotland, who were stone carving from a bursar of the Heritage Lottery Fund. There was also a traditional roof slating demonstration from the National Federation of Roofing Contractors (NFRC).

The event aimed to encourage local school children to consider a future career in traditional building skills and construction. It also highlighted the skills required to repair and maintain local traditional buildings and homes.

The event was also supported by other key partners represented on the Forth Valley Traditional Building Forum including Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Stirling City Council and Stone Federation Great Britain.

EAIE Conference

Forth Valley College attended the 27th Annual EAIE Conference – Europe's largest international higher education conference – in September in order to promote international activity.

Over 5000 people from 90 countries attended the event.



EMPLOYABILITY CONFERENCE BACKED BY SCOTTISH MINISTER



The Fair Work Secretary has voiced her support for the Stirling Local Employability Partnership (LEP), which held its second annual conference at Forth Valley College's Stirling Campus in September 2015.

Roseanna Cunningham gave her backing to the event - bringing together Stirling Council, the NHS, employment agencies, local employers and educational organisations to help people into positive destinations - which this year focused on 'Meeting Everyone's Needs'.



Roseanna Cunningham, Cabinet Secretary for Fair Work, Skills and Training, said: "This event is an excellent example of how our colleges and businesses work together in order to offer courses that meet Scotland's skills needs and ensure students gain the skills that employers want.

"I know from my own discussions with students, college staff and their business partners that building these partnerships can open up student's eyes to a greater range of career opportunities and give them real optimism for their work prospects after completing their course. From the business side, companies are able to engage with prospective new staff earlier, comment on what courses are being offered and suggest ways for training to be developed further."

More than 80 delegates attended the event and took part in a series of workshops covering Community Based Adult Learning Approaches to Support Learning for Employability, Higher Education Employer Engagement, Developing Our Young Workforce (DYW), Apprenticeships – Earn while you Learn, Raising Aspirations, Developing Joint Referral Pathways and Improving Outcomes through Volunteering – Creating a Vision.

Topics on the agenda included raising awareness of recent recruitment initiatives and challenges, current employer needs

and opportunities for change to ensure development needs are being met.

In the afternoon, an employer Q&A panel - consisting of Gavin Rennie from Prudential, Rhona Bremner Regional Operations Manager Scotland from Care Watch Care Services Ltd, Linzie Rob Community Development Coordinator from the Robertson Group, Mark Findlay Coaching Manager from Active Stirling, Frances Scanlan Logoxpres and Catherine Smith Cluster General Manager (Edinburgh North) from Whitbread Plc – focussed on the theme of Meeting Everyone's Needs.

Dr Ken Thomson, Principal for Forth Valley College and Chairman of the Stirling LEP, gave a Vote of Thanks to bring the conference to an end.

Dr Thomson, said: "We are delighted to receive such a positive endorsement from from the Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham and thank her for her support and backing for our annual LEP conference.

"The conference has once again been a success and proved to be very useful for those involved in the Local Employability Partnership. There was certainly something for everyone who attended and from the feedback we have had already, it is proving to be a very worthwhile event.

COLLEGE PUTS FORWARD PROPOSALS FOR NEW FALKIRK CAMPUS

Forth Valley College held a Public Consultation Event on Monday 5 October in regards to proposals for a new Falkirk Campus.

A wide range of stakeholders attended the event to find out more about the proposed development. If plans are approved, the new campus is expected to open in 2019.

www.forthvalley.ac.uk/about/new_falkirk_campus

 @falkirkcampus





FVC AND SCOTTISH POWER RUNNERS –UP IN PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Forth Valley College and Scottish Power have just missed out on a prestigious national training award.

The two organisations have forged exceptional links over the last two years working to develop and collaborate with each other in a number of areas and had been nominated in the Scottish Training Federation's (STF) annual awards in the Success in Partnership category.

Popular broadcaster Kaye Adams was the host of the event at the Crieff Hydro Hotel on Tuesday 29 September where FVC and Scottish Power were just pipped to the award by Babcock Training and Asda.

The exciting FVC/Scottish Power partnership has allowed:

New craft apprentices to develop skills and knowledge

New Higher Level apprentices to develop skills and knowledge

New Adult Craft Trainees to develop technical knowledge

Opportunities for project management training for higher level apprentices

Opportunities for the unemployed and under employed to develop skills required by Scottish Power Energy Networks and its contractors

Opportunities and excellent practice from this partnership to be shared with others.

Colette Filippi, FVC's Associate Principal and Executive Director Business Development, said:

"Obviously we are disappointed to have just missed out on winning the award, but we are delighted to have been nominated. Our partnership with Scottish Power is growing from strength to strength and we are a great example of the positive impact that can be achieved when colleges and industry work together."

SCOTTISH POWER TRAINEES ARE REAL BRIGHT SPARKS

Scottish Power Trainees were recognised recently for completing their first six months of academic and practical training at Forth Valley College.

The Recognition Awards Event was held at Scottish Power's Technical Training facility at Dealain House in Cumbernauld on Wednesday 2 September.

A total of 12 trainees received certificates and three were presented with additional recognition awards. The award categories were: Most Consistent Performer, Inspiring Others and Demonstrating Scottish Power Values. All are now looking forward to continuing their development at the Dealain House facility.

The theme of the event was 'Success at Work' and was hosted by members of Scottish Power Learning Development Team, the SP Energy Network Workforce Development Team and Forth Valley College's Business Development Department.

A new cohort of trainees set to undertake their training at FVC on Monday 7 September, were also in attendance. It is hoped they will be inspired by seeing their colleagues graduate and hearing the various positive presentations from trainees at the event.

Paul Cormack, from Scottish Power's Workforce Programmes, said: "This event has been a fantastic way to recognise the achievements of our apprentices. I'm really proud of the apprentices who delivered an excellent presentation to the new apprentices giving them an idea of what to expect during their initial training and providing them with some top tips, to get the most from their programme."

Zak Stark, FVC's Development Manager in the Business Development Department, said: "It was great to see the trainees who have completed their first six months at Forth Valley College receive the recognition for all the hard work they have put in. They will no doubt be an inspiration to the new cohort who were also present on the day and will no doubt want to emulate their achievements.

"This innovative partnership between Scottish Power and the College is proving to be very successful and we are delighted to be involved in the training of the next generation of Scottish Power professionals."



ALICE SHORTLISTED FOR AWARD

A Modern Apprentice (MA) at Forth Valley College has been shortlisted for a prestigious Skills Development Scotland (SDS) MA of the Year Award.

Alice Pezzani (20) from Bridge of Allan has been nominated in the final of the Level 2 Apprenticeship category, the winner of which will be announced at a special awards ceremony 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 is just about to start another MA in Creative and Digital Media at the Stirling Campus.

Laura Riley, Communications Officer in the Communications and Marketing Department, said: "Alice is a highly regarded and valued member of the team and we're delighted her hard work and dedication has been recognised with this nomination.

"Alice's work is of the highest standard and she has consistently gone above and beyond her role to take on new challenges. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude will stand her in good stead as she progresses in her career and she has a bright future ahead of her."

GOOD
LUCK
ALICE!

MA CHERYL SCOOPS TOP COLLEGE AWARD

A Petroineos Modern Apprentice has won Forth Valley College's top graduation prize for 2015.

Cheryl Pryde (21) from Shieldhill, Falkirk, was presented with 'Student of the Year' at the Falkirk Town Hall Ceremony on the evening of Tuesday 6 October. She also picked up the 'MA of the Year' award at the same event.

The MA in Downstream Field Operations has certainly followed in the family footsteps by becoming an engineering apprentice like her dad, uncle, grandfather, and cousin before her - with all progressing on to have excellent careers within the Oil and Gas Industry.

Cheryl, who has just accepted a job with BP and will be based offshore, said: "I started my MA three years ago and also completed an HNC in Chemical Engineering. The facilities at the College were absolutely fantastic and the best bit for me was when we had to go out and complete a small 'turnaround' on the Westfield Rig at the Falkirk Campus.

"The lecturers were absolutely brilliant; they help you with everything and are always there for you. I can't believe I have won 'MA of the Year', let alone 'Student of the Year'. I can't believe that just coming in and doing something I enjoy has led to me winning awards. It is just unbelievable, I didn't expect anything like that."

FVC's MA Manager, Lorna Allison, said: "My own personal opinion is that Cheryl is very enthusiastic, keen to learn, she puts herself out for others and she always wants to help. She is also very bright, polite, driven and motivated, and is a hard worker. I think she has a very bright future in the oil and gas industry. She is an outstanding operator."

AWARD
WINNING

'STUDENT OF THE YEAR
& MA OF THE YEAR'

LEADING THE WAY WITH NEW MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



Forth Valley College is helping the FES Group develop their stars of their future with a new customised leadership programme.

FES have selected eight members of staff, currently in a range of diverse roles, to work towards the tailored HNC in Management and Leadership.

The students will travel from across Scotland to undertake their training on a Tuesday afternoon and evening. The two year programme will consist of 12 units which have been especially selected to develop the skills required by future FES leaders.

FES are fully funding the programme.

Bob Armstrong - Head of Business Department at Forth Valley College said:

“We were delighted to develop this exciting new programme for FES FM and support their aspirations in terms of developing their future management team. They had identified several members of staff with potential and wanted to put them through a programme which would give them the necessary knowledge and skills to undertake management roles in the future. The framework for the HNC in Management and Leadership seemed the perfect fit and we helped them to select the units which would best meet their needs. Our expert teaching staff will now deliver the programme and support the students throughout their time here.”

Frazer Meiklejohn, Managing Director of FES FM added:

“Developing the management and leadership skills of our staff is a key component of our strategy to ensure continued successful growth of the FES Group. This new leadership programme developed with the teaching staff at Forth Valley College is an exciting expansion of our longstanding relationship with the College which includes the very successful Apprenticeship Training Programme.”

FVC MAKES SCOTTISH BUSINESS PLEDGE

Forth Valley College have become the first college to make the Scottish Business Pledge.

To make the pledge the organisation concerned has to be paying the Living Wage (£7.85 per hour), not have any employee on a zero hours contract, support progressive workforce engagement, invest in youth, have a balanced workforce, pursue international business opportunities, have an innovation programme, play an active role in the community and commit to prompt payment.

Having already made a commitment to paying the living wage, the College has successfully invested in the other eight elements over the past few years that make up the overall pledge. Deputy First Minister John Swinney congratulated the College on becoming the first college to make the pledge.



Mr Swinney, said: “The Scottish Business Pledge recognises shared goals and values by celebrating success and ambition and signalling a commitment to work towards a better future. Forth Valley College is the first college to make a Pledge, and this speaks clearly to the ambition and innovation which underpins their success. This Pledge underlines the importance of fair and progressive business policies and the role they play in supporting business development and sustainable economic growth.”

Andrew Lawson, Associate Principal, Forth Valley College, said: “We are delighted to be the first and only college in Scotland to have made the Scottish Business Pledge and are very proud of the commitments we have made in achieving this.

“In this day and age it is essential for organisations to treat staff as well as possible and commit to conditions that reflect how much they are valued and respected. By making the Scottish Business Pledge we want to show that Forth Valley College is a mature, professional, progressive, forward thinking and innovative place to work.”

Did You Know...?

We currently deliver Modern Apprenticeships in the following areas including:

- Business and Administration
- Chemical Manufacturing and Petroleum Industries
- Construction (All Trades)
- Creative Industries Digital Media
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Hospitality
- Life Sciences
- Management
- Retail
- Social Services and Health Care



To find out how your business could benefit, please get in touch today – drop us an email at businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk or call 0845 634 4444.

COMPEX TRAINING IDEAL FOR SWEDISH DESIGNERS



Forth Valley College's CompEx training proved to be the perfect fit for two Swedish design engineers recently. Claes-Henry Aronsson and Rune Ingman – who both work for condition monitoring equipment giants SPM Instrument – were unable to find the relevant Electrical Safety in Hazardous Areas training in their homeland to enable them to work offshore.

But after some online research they quickly booked on a week long course at FVC's state-of-the-art CompEx facilities in Falkirk.

The pair design and fit monitoring equipment on bearings, shafts, pumps and fans, that their company install on oil rigs all over the world. The training offered at FVC's Falkirk Campus suited their requirements down to the ground. Claes-Henry (50) from Arboga near Stockholm, said: "There was no CompEx training available in Sweden and we specifically sought out the right course for us and that was here at Forth Valley College. It has been very useful and very interesting for us. The teaching was inspiring and I would thoroughly recommend it."

Rune (55) from Eskilstuna, added: "We are designers for monitoring equipment that has to be fitted offshore and we need to make sure we know the correct safety procedures. Coming on this CompEx course has been very worthwhile and has confirmed that we have done our homework and are on the right track."

CompEx Lead Commercial Trainer Alan Montgomery, said: "Claes-Henry and Rune thoroughly enjoyed the course and were excellent students. They have been very complimentary of our facilities and teaching methods and we are delighted they found the course useful for their important work.

"Our new facilities further enhance our reputation as being one of the best CompEx training centres to deliver these courses in the UK. We are delighted with the new training areas as they make the candidates more comfortable. The feedback from people who have been on the course already has been very positive."

Forth Valley College has an outstanding reputation for 'Making Learning Work' and prides itself on being an approved centre for CompEx delivering the best possible range of accredited electrical courses.

NEW PETROINEOS COURSE

A BESPOKE 12-WEEK TRAINING COURSE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE AND PETROINEOS THAT WILL MEET THE NEEDS OF THE PETROINEOS REFINERY FOR MECHANICAL TECHNICIANS.

The College together with INEOS and Petroineos have been at the forefront of developing bespoke training programmes to meet the specific needs of Industry and this is an exemplar of this.

The aim of the programme is to identify, through a rigorous selection process, technicians who are not from a refining-specific mechanical technician background and to provide them with the necessary skills and experiences to enable them to join the refinery teams as Mechanical Technicians.

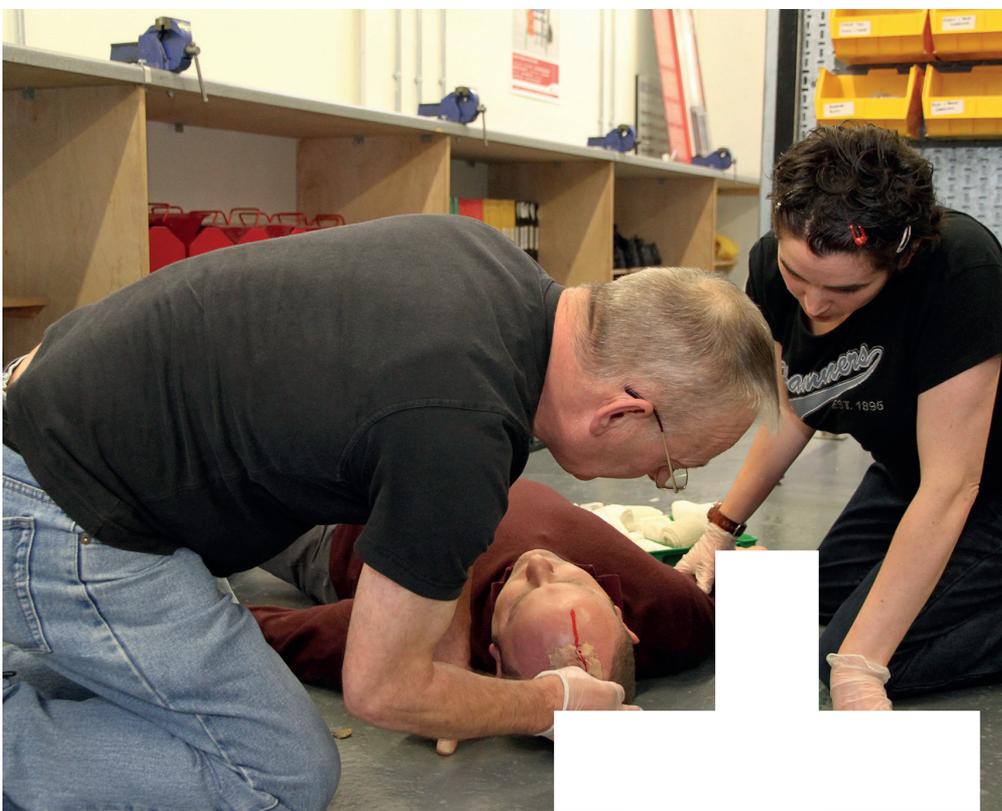
As part of this training programme nine individuals have been selected and will work toward achieving SVQ Level 3 in their specific discipline. The programme will consist of theory and practical training delivered at Forth Valley College in conjunction with work placements at Petroineos to reinforce learning.

This mechanical training course follows on from the successful implementation of a similar course to develop process technicians for the Grangemouth refinery.

FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THE ACADEMIC AND CLASSROOM BASED LEARNING FOR 75 COMPANY-SPONSORED MODERN APPRENTICES.

For more information on CompEx courses call 01324 403173 or e-mail businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk





FIRST AID FITS THE BILL AT FVC

Nearly 500 people have now been trained in simple life-saving techniques on the free British Heart Foundation (BHF) Scotland Heartstart course run at Forth Valley College Campuses in Falkirk, Alloa and Stirling, since it began in January 2014.

The FVC Heartstart programme is just one of a range of excellent training opportunities available at the College including: First Aid at Work, First Aid Emergency and First Aid Paediatrics, with many of these courses offering expert instruction on defibrillators.

There is definitely something for everyone from the complete first aid beginner to those wishing to enhance their skills and develop a full professional set of first aid qualifications. Some role playing scenarios even enlist the help of students to pose as casualties, with realistic wounds created by Make-up Artistry students.

Rhona Stark, a previous First Aid trainer at FVC, said: "I recently completed a First Aid course at FVC and only a few weeks later was able to put these life-saving skills into practice when one of our visitors collapsed after taking a heart attack. Thanks to the way in which the course was delivered, I remembered and was confidently able to utilise all the skills gained to resuscitate and keep the lady comfortable until the ambulance arrived."

Linton McBurnie, another former FVC First Aid student, said: "The way in which the tutor delivers the training programme from start to finish is superb and is presented in a way that is easy to follow and very informative. This is probably the best First Aid course that I have attended in my 35 years of training."

For more information on Heartstart and First Aid Courses on offer at Forth Valley College contact businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk or call 0845 634 4444

VETERANS' VOICE AT FVC

Forth Valley College has set up information and leaflet stands at every campus for veterans of the armed forces looking for further education advice and support.

FVC's Veterans' Champion and Senior First Aid Trainer Richy Todd – himself an army veteran – hopes ex-military personnel will come in to find out more about courses, funding or how they can access free support from organisations such as Combat Stress, Relationships Scotland, Poppy Scotland and the Armed Services Advice Project (through Citizens Advice Scotland).

Richy said: "Many business and employers in the Forth Valley area will have people working for them who have been in the forces and we want to get the message out that there may be courses which can help their careers here at Forth Valley College. We can also help point them in the right direction in regards to funding for this and for any other issues they might have as they re-assimilate themselves back into civilian life.

"We look forward to hearing from anyone who has been in the forces or who are due to leave soon. They can contact me on richy.todd@forthvalley.ac.uk for more information."

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS BEGIN

An innovative scheme linking Forth Valley College with local employers is aiming to help senior school pupils to build their future careers.

Forth Valley College has just rolled out the first Foundation Apprenticeships, which will offer S4 and S5 pupils from local schools the opportunity to complete elements of a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) while still at School.

A total of 20 students enrolled on the two-year Foundation Apprenticeships in Social Services and Healthcare (based at the Falkirk Campus) and Early Education and Childcare (based at the Stirling Campus) at the end of August.

Foundation Apprenticeships have been developed by the national skills agency Skills Development Scotland (SDS). They combine academic learning with hands-on skills to develop the knowledge, skills and work experience that will help to broaden options for students, enabling them to go on to complete a Modern Apprenticeship, attend college or university or go directly into employment.



ECITB PREAPPRENTICESHIP COURSE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

A new pre-apprenticeship course is aiming to prepare potential engineering and construction workers for a future in the industry.

Created by the Engineering, Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB), the new Pre-Apprenticeship Programme will be delivered by FVC at their Falkirk Campus with its state-of-the-art facilities.

Focussing on the basics of Electrical, Mechanical and Instrument Control disciplines the new course will allow students to complete a National Certificate in Engineering Systems, a CCNSG Safety Passport and relevant practical skills for on and off-shore work in the engineering and construction sector.

Seven students started the FVC course at the start of September and joined 55 other students at six other colleges across the UK as the first cohort to study for the innovative ECITB programme.

Martin Eatough, ECITB's UK Commercial and Apprentice Programmes Manager,

said: "The feedback we have had so far since the students began in September is good and very positive from the learners in particular. The three main components of the programme – including their National Certificate and their Safety Passport – would be what a full Modern Apprentice would do in the first year, so they will be able to hit the ground running whenever it comes to them securing a Modern Apprenticeship within the sector."

"If it proves to be successful we will look to make it an annual ECITB course."

Zak Stark, FVC's Business Manager, in the Business Development Department, said: "We are very excited to be working in partnership with ECITB to deliver this innovative Pre-Apprenticeship Programme. We are convinced this is exactly what the industry needs at this moment and we look forward working with the students over the coming months. ECITB and Forth Valley College have developed a strong and creative partnership over the last few years and we are confident this will develop even further in the future."

MADDISTON DEFIB FUND BOOSTED BY FVC



A campaign to raise funds for life-saving defib machines to be sited in Maddiston near Falkirk, has received a welcome boost from Forth Valley College.

Richy Todd, FVC's Senior First Aid Trainer and Veterans' Champion, spotted that the Maddiston Community Defib Project were appealing for donations to raise £1,200 so they could site two defibrillators at various sites.

FVC's Business Development Department managed to raise £150 for the worthy cause. They have also offered to provide free First Aid training to locals in Maddiston, delivered by specially trained ex-servicemen and women, when the defib machines arrive.

Norrie Brown (57) a lifeguard trainer who lives in Maddiston and the organiser of the Maddiston Community Defib Project, said: "This is an unbelievable donation, absolutely tremendous. Not only have the college raised money for us, but they are prepared to help train local people in the use of these life-saving machines. We can't thank them enough.

"Maddiston is at least 15 minutes away from the nearest hospital and there is a need for these machines to be sited in the area. If anyone collapses in the street in Maddiston it could really improve their chances of surviving with these defibs in the area. The British Heart Foundation are part-funding the machines, but we need to raise as much as we can and this donation from Forth Valley College will help enormously."

For more information on all First Aid Courses on offer at Forth Valley College contact businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk or call 0845 634 4444.



INDUSTRY INTERVIEW

InTouch magazine took the opportunity to speak with Martin Eatough ECITB's UK Commercial and Apprentice Programmes Manager, who visited the College's Falkirk Campus on Thursday to speak with the first cohort of their innovative new Pre-Apprenticeship Programme students.

What is ECITB's relationship with Forth Valley College?

We are absolutely delighted with our relationship with Forth Valley College and this is reflected by the fact that the College has won the contract for our Offshore Upstream Oil and Gas Technician Training Scheme for the last three years running.

Why have ECITB created the new Pre-Apprenticeship Programme?

Currently there are pockets of uncertainty in the sector – and in business in general – in relation to the recruitment of Modern Apprenticeships. For some employers it raises the question about taking on an MA: is there enough work? and if they take on an MA can they currently commit to completing

the training? This can lead to industry being behind profile as regards MA intake and we recognise through history that once industry picks up there will be demand for MAs and skilled labour. That is why we decided to introduce the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme.

What will the new Pre-Apprentices be doing at Forth Valley College?

There are a total of 62 pre-apprentices in six different colleges across the UK undertaking the new pilot course and they will be focussing on a number of skills including the basics of Electrical, Mechanical and Instrument Control. They will be working towards their National Certificate in Engineering Systems,

their CCNSG Safety passport and other relevant skills. They will basically be doing everything they would do in the first year of an MA in the engineering and construction sector. We also hope to be able to offer them all a work placement opportunity in early 2016, so by the time they complete their year-long course they should be in a good position to be applying for a full MA.

What has been the feedback like so far

The feedback we have had so far since the students began in September is good and very positive from the learners in particular. If it proves to be successful we will look to make it an annual ECITB course.

NEW PARTNERSHIP BUILDS FUTURES

A new partnership is helping two young local people build a future in traditional joinery skills



Rowen Baird (19, Stirling) and Scott Spence (21, Grangemouth) both started a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Carpentry and Joinery at Forth Valley College's Stirling Campus recently.

Rowen and Scott both managed to secure their apprenticeship with employer Andrew Miller Architectural Joinery after undertaking a 'Skills for the Future' placement managed by Historic Scotland and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The 'Skills for the Future' Scheme aims to address skills shortages within the Heritage Sector by helping young people to pursue relevant vocational training.

During the four year apprenticeship, Rowen and Scott will develop a wide range of specialist craft and joinery skills by attending college two days per week for the first two years of the programme. Working with their employer for the duration of the apprenticeship, they will also gain hands-on traditional building skills experience.

The apprentices will be managed by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB).

Ian Morrison, Head of Department for Construction at Forth Valley College said:

"We're delighted to welcome Rowen and Scott to Forth Valley College. They will benefit greatly from the high quality training on offer at the College, our state-of-the-art facilities and our fantastic location surrounded by Scottish landmarks and heritage.

"These particular apprenticeships also highlight how our partnership with Historic Scotland is growing from strength to strength. Historic Scotland's Training Centre for Stonemasonry is already based within our Stirling Campus however they will now also be involved in delivering traditional joinery skills. This is a fantastic development for all involved and will allow us to explore even more joint initiatives."

Gillian Ferguson, HLF Bursary Manager at Historic Scotland, said: "The Skills for the Future' project aims to encourage new entrants into the construction sector to gain the skills needed to repair and maintain Scotland's traditional buildings and structures. Trainees are placed with the finest specialist contractors, such as Andrew Miller Architectural Joinery here in Stirling. To see the two trainees hosted by Andrew move into a formal apprenticeship and employment is a wonderful outcome of the project and a measure of the commitment to training the next generation, made by Andrew's company."

Andrew Miller of Andrew Miller Architectural Joinery said: "There's such a skills shortage in the restoration aspect of joinery and in the past it's been extremely frustrating trying to find suitable employees. 'Skills for the Future' is really helping to address this. Rowen and Scott have both come on leaps and bounds since commencing their placement and I put them forward for an apprenticeship as a direct result of the scheme. By working together, all the partners involved are playing an important role in training the next generation of traditional skills joiners."

Phil Ford, CITB's Strategic Partnerships Director for Scotland, said: "Apprentices are the life blood of the construction industry. The traditional skills sector is hugely important to Scotland's heritage and provides a rewarding career choice. The Scottish construction industry needs 4430 new recruits each year for the next five years to meet demand; Rowen and Scott will help to meet this target. I wish them both success in their apprenticeships and future careers."

Apprentice Rowen Baird said: "I've always had an interest in traditional building skills and this is an amazing opportunity. My future is literally in my hands."

COULD YOU OFFER LIFE CHANGING WORK EXPERIENCE?

Forth Valley College is looking for employers to offer work placements for their employability programmes in retail and construction.



Organisations are asked to offer a placement opportunity four days per week for eight weeks. Trainees would also spend one day per week based at the College's Alloa or Falkirk Campuses.

Benefits of taking part include:

- Help develop your industry's workforce – and potentially meet future employees
- Gain new ideas and perspectives on your organisation
- Get extra support for your workplace

Work experience can make all the difference to someone looking to secure a job – you can help them find a better future.

Programmes are offered throughout the year – to find out more on how you can take part, please contact:

Construction Employability Programme –
andy.falconer@forthvalley.ac.uk

Retail Employability Programme –
linda.petrie@forthvalley.ac.uk

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.



Vicki Francis

Business Development Partner

Describe your role

I engage with new businesses in order to offer SVQ and MA opportunities. I induct funded and non-funded Modern Apprentices on to various MA programmes. I carry out reviews with Modern Apprentices on a regular basis. I work with lecturers, assessors and employers to ensure MA progress is being made. I also attend events to promote Forth Valley College and all that the College offers.

What's your background?

I worked in IT for 4 years when I finished university which gave me the experience and skills to secure my role of Flexible Learning Assistant with Forth Valley College 9 years ago. I joined the Business Development Team in January 2011.

Describe a typical day at work

There is no typical day they are all different!

What's been your biggest achievement so far?

I have achieved so many things that I am proud of in my career; it's hard to choose one.

Best thing about your job?

The variety of different people I meet and the places I visit – and supporting Modern Apprentices as they progress through their courses.

Describe your job in three words:

Busy. Varied. Enjoyable.

Why choose training at Forth Valley College?

There are a varied range of courses available to suit individual and business needs. The College also offers expert teaching, support staff and state-of-the-art facilities.



TOP TWEETS

skills dev scotland
@skillsdevscot

Great to be working with @FVCollege as school pupils build their future careers through Foundation Apprenticeships

Carol Turnbull
@caroltdgcollege

Delighted to have @FVCollege Principal, Ken Thomson visit us today to tour the Dumfries campus and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Interactive Scotland
@IntScotland

Great to see @FVCollege and @creativescots encouraging young people to get involved with film & digital media

scotgoveconomy
@scotgoveconomy

@FVCollege are the first college to sign up to #ScotBizPledge which includes investing in youth & having a balanced workforce

CREATIVE AND DIGITAL MA STUDENTS GO ON THE RECORD



A new batch of students have pressed the record button to start their Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Creative and Digital Media at Forth Valley College.

The intrepid foursome – Alice Pezzani (20) from Bridge of Allan, Daisy Smith (17) from Laurencekirk, Callum Beaton (20) from Thornhill and Craig Tough (20) from Alloa, reported for duty at the Stirling Campus on Friday 18 September.

Callum Beaton, who works with local mental health charity Action in Mind, said:

"My first day on the Creative and Digital Media course was a great start and has hopefully set the tone for the rest of the course. The staff and other students were all kind and easy to get along with, and the campus itself is very nice. I'm looking forward to learning the skills from this course, which will help me in both a personal and professional capacity. It's particularly relevant to my job role now, as I am going to be updating and creating content for our website when it gets launched. All in all, I'm very much looking forward to the rest of the course."

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