

## MINISTERIAL FOREWORD

Welcome to this edition of the Skills Newsletter. It is hard to believe that one year has passed since we launched the first edition and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and involvement. This is a very busy time of year for the Department with two key events due to take place over the next few weeks: the National Training Awards and the All Island Skills Conference. We are just days away from the first All Island Skills Conference which is due to take place in the Millennium Forum in Londonderry on 9 October.



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The event is being jointly hosted by Northern Ireland Skills Expert Group and Expert Group on Future Skills Needs and will examine skills issues from an all island basis highlighting best practice in cross border co-operation. I have no doubt that the event will be a great success and look forward to updating you on it in the next edition of this newsletter.

I am also pleased to announce that the Department has embarked upon a series of advertising campaigns to raise awareness and promote various aspects of the Department's work. You will see this evolve over the coming months through various mediums promoting Training for Success, ApprenticeshipNI, Essential Skills and our 'Bring it On' and 'C'Mon Over' initiatives.

With our 'C'Mon Over' campaign about to enter a new phase and our attendance at a number of graduate fairs in October I welcome the support we have received from employers for this initiative. As always your support is paramount if we are to encourage suitably skilled people to live and work in Northern Ireland. If you are an employer and would like to get involved in the campaign you can email us at [cmovoverni@delni.gov.uk](mailto:cmovoverni@delni.gov.uk) or telephone 028 9044 1813.

**SIR REG EMPEY MLA** – Minister for Employment and Learning

### 'C'Mon Over' Update

We have just entered a new phase in our drive to attract people to live and work in Northern Ireland and are about to launch a new advertising

## Management

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campaign. Over the next couple of months we will be attending graduate recruitment fairs in Edinburgh, Dundee, Liverpool, Manchester and Dublin to raise awareness of the opportunities available in Northern Ireland. Some of the employers who have signed up to attend the fairs are Openwave, NYSE Euronet Advanced Trading solutions, Abacus Recruitment, Liberty, Citi and Blueprint. If you are an employer interested in becoming involved in the campaign then please email us at [cmonoverni@delni.gov.uk](mailto:cmonoverni@delni.gov.uk) or alternatively, visit our 'C'Mon Over' webpage for further details on the Graduate Fairs. You can also visit the 'Northern Ireland' page on [Facebook](#).

### Minister celebrates start of new training

The Minister announced the formal roll out of the new ApprenticeshipsNI and Training for Success provision during a visit to Harland and Wolff on 1st September.

[Read more >>](#)

### All Age Apprenticeships

[ApprenticeshipsNI](#) is the Department's Apprenticeship programme, which now opens up full framework Apprenticeships to all age groups and has been developed with both employers and apprentices in mind.

ApprenticeshipsNI requires commitment from employers, apprentices, and training suppliers, as well as Government to make it work. Employers contribute by providing quality training in the workplace, by supporting the apprentices' learning and paying a wage that is relative to the industry rate for the job. By offering apprenticeships, employers will find it easier to recruit and retain the right people for their business. Bear in mind that person may be an *existing employee* wishing to follow an apprenticeship perhaps in their current role!



Pictured above with the Minister is Christopher Clawson, Apprentice Fitter with Harland and Wolff.

Employers can register apprentice vacancies at [www.employersonlineni.com](http://www.employersonlineni.com) For further information, including details of Frameworks and full lists of Training Suppliers, visit [www.apprenticeshipsni.info](http://www.apprenticeshipsni.info) or call the Department's freephone helpline number on 08000 854573.

[Read more >>](#)

### Employers Essential in building Skills

The Department has been working with a number of local employers to raise [Essential Skills](#) levels in the workplace, both in the public and the

private sectors. We are liaising with Sector Skills Councils to ensure that the literacy and numeracy needs of workers within their footprints are articulated and addressed as well as funding projects with Asset Skills, GoSkills and Summit Skills. Work in the public sector is well advanced too with Health Trusts and the Northern Ireland Civil Service all committed to the Essential Skills agenda. There is a real need for more employers to sign up to improving Essential Skills in the workplace. All courses are FREE and can be delivered on site. For further information phone the Essential Skills Team on 0800 731 2426.

[Read more >>](#)

### **Essential Skills a key Departmental priority**

The Minister for Employment and Learning announces that 12,200 learners have achieved Essential Skills Qualifications over the past year.

[Read more >>](#)

### **Inspirational Young Talent**



The Minister congratulated Queen's University student, Fionnuala McKenna from Co Tyrone having scooped a top national award from ConstructionSkills. She was presented with a cheque for £4,000 as winner of

the Inspire Scholarship Work Placement Award. Fionnuala undertook her work placement with Farrans (Construction) Ltd. Inspire Scholarships launched in 2005 and have helped address the difficulties facing employers recruiting work ready staff in Northern Ireland and throughout the UK.

[Read more >>](#)

### **Consultation Event for UK CES 5 Year Strategic Plan**

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills is in the process of consulting on the development of its five year Strategic Plan: 2009/10 – 2013/14. As part of this process, the Commission held a half day event in the Stormont Hotel on 23rd September, for Northern Ireland stakeholders to



provide views on appropriate goals and strategies for the Commission, and what changes are needed to the UK's employment and skills systems.

Sir Reg Empey opened the session and addressed the delegates, stating that the consultation event was key to providing Northern Ireland employment and skills stakeholders with an opportunity to inform both the development of the strategic plan and the Commission's long term goals. Professor Mike Campbell, Director of Research and Policy at the Commission, provided an overview of the work of the Commission and outlined the strategic plan process, and this was followed by interactive workshops. There is further opportunity to provide feedback to the

Commission on the strategic plan, up until the end of December 2008.

### All Island Skills Conference 2008



This year's All Island Skills Conference will take place on 9 October 2008 in the Millennium Forum, Londonderry. The Conference will be jointly hosted by the Skills Expert Group in Northern Ireland and the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs in Ireland. The event will focus particularly on the all island demand for skills. It will highlight cross border co-operation and offer an opportunity to explore practical ways of bringing positive benefits to

both economies. Places at the conference are limited and will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. If you are interested in attending or want to find out more about the conference then please visit the [conference website](#).

### Case Study: ALMAC



Almac clinical sciences have been working closely with the Department in promoting the 'C'Mon Over' Campaign. Having attended the two graduate fairs in May they have been able to promote the company and highlight the many graduate career opportunities available. Employing over 2,000 highly skilled individuals, the privately owned company is headquartered in Craigavon and has extensive facilities in the UK and US. Over 600 companies worldwide, including

the market leaders use their services, which is testament to the quality, innovation and efficiency of their business. Within ALMAC there are five divisions, Almac Sciences, Almac Clinical Services, Almac, Clinical Technologies, Almac Pharma Services and Almac Diagnostics. All divisions work together to deliver tailored solutions which meet the individual needs and requests of its client groups. Almac pride themselves on their commitment to the improvement of human health through the advancement of medicine. They place special emphasis on recruiting the best people from the UK, Ireland, Europe, US and further afield. Almac's key graduate opportunities are within the Analytical Chemistry, Organic Chemistry and Diagnostics departments. Qualification requirements for positions in the company are dependant on the specific roles. The company employ graduates from chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, biological sciences and general business studies disciplines. Employees are educated to Degree standard with some having Masters and PhD qualifications. All employees are given an attractive remuneration package in addition to continual learning and development opportunities to enable individuals to perform effectively.

[Find out more about career opportunities with Almac >>](#)

**Do you need help with your recruitment?**

Ever thought of using the Department's online recruitment service?

Employers and Recruitment agencies can avail of our vacancy listing service - at no cost - by simply logging on to [EmployersOnline NI](#). Your vacancy is then automatically displayed on [JobCentreOnline](#) and throughout the Department's network of Jobs and Benefits Offices. If you would like to find out more, call 0800 3289135. Please read our [website](#).



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