

SUCCESS THROUGH SKILLS

SKILLS STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

ISSUE 2 – NOV 07

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**Labour Market
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“ Welcome to the second of the Department for Employment and Learning’s skills updates. Much has happened in the two months since the first newsletter was distributed.

In early October, I visited New York to see first hand how the State is developing its people to fulfil the needs of local companies, especially in the financial services sector. This sector is of particular interest to us in Northern Ireland. Many companies, including the Bank of Ireland, have announced that they are creating new jobs in this field in Belfast, so it is clear this is a developing area and therefore one in which I am keen to maximise potential. This visit gave me a useful insight into how to take this forward at home.



As expected, the National Training Awards ceremony which was held on the 16th October in the Culloden, was a huge success. This event is the highlight of the Northern Ireland training and personal development calendar and has become a focus and challenge for individuals, businesses and organisations. Northern Ireland can be proud of its track record in the National Training Awards and this year is no exception. Twenty-six entrants received recognition for excellence in training and 18 individuals, businesses and organisations collected Regional Awards. Eight of these regional winners received National Award recognition and will receive their awards with other UK winners at the National Ceremony in the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London in December. Winning a National Training Award in 2008 could be of great lasting benefit to your business and I would encourage you to consider entering your

- Labour Market Bulletin
- NI Labour Force Survey

How can DEL help employers?

- Essential Skills Training
- Intro Management Development Programme
- Management Analysis and Planning (MAP)
- Training for Success
- Management & Leadership Development Programme
- Investors in People
- New Deal
- Bridge to Employment
- Disabling Advisory Service
- Employment Rights
- Employment Service

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company into this competition. In the section below you can find out more about the awards ceremony and how to apply for the competition in 2008.

At the end of October, my colleague, Education Minister Catriona Ruane, and I launched 'Preparing for Success', the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Strategy for consultation. The Strategy is the result of collaboration between my Department and the Department of Education and forms a vital part of Success through Skills. The importance of appropriate career planning to the future development of our economy cannot be overstated. As Northern Ireland strives to develop as an internationally competitive economy, we must develop the skills and support mechanisms necessary to facilitate appropriate career decision making. This will assist people to fulfil their personal potential as well as make a valuable contribution to the economy. You can find out more about the consultation in the section below".

SIR REG EMPEY MLA – Minister for Employment and Learning



WorldSkills 2007 – Japan

The latest information on this year's competition can be found on the WorldSkills website. [Jonathan Lloyd](#) from Northern Ireland was a member of the UK team at the event and won a bronze medal for car

painting.

National Training Awards

As mentioned above, this year's National Training Awards ceremony was a great success! You can find out more about our winners [here](#).

We are already planning next year's event and will be holding National Training Awards information seminars in January 2008 for businesses or individuals who wish to enter this prestigious competition in 2008. If you would like to find out more [email Catherine Millar](#) or call 028 90257474

Essential Skills

It is estimated that around one third of adults in employment in Northern Ireland have poor levels of literacy and numeracy and, with rapidly changing technologies and working practices, this means their skills are often insufficient to meet the demands of the job.

Where staff are not supported in brushing up these skills in the workplace, the result can go right to the heart of an organisation, affecting efficiency and profitability.

With 75% of the current workforce forecast still to be in employment in 2020, it makes sense to train the staff you already have. The Department's Essential Skills Strategy allows employers to access **free** training, tailored to your organisation's needs, in your own workplace. For further information, visit the [Department's website](#) or phone the Employer Helpline on 0800 731 2426.

STEM Review

Schools, FE colleges and Universities are all acutely aware of the decreasing number of people wishing to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). Unfortunately this comes at a time when our employers are looking to recruit more and more of these people. As a result, the Department of Education and the Department for Employment and Learning, in conjunction with the [Association of Northern Ireland Colleges](#) (ANIC), are undertaking a STEM Review.

[>> Read More](#)

Looking to improve your business?

Utilising the latest on-line diagnostic technology, the Management Analysis and Planning tool draws on the expertise of professional people and development consultants working with individual companies to provide customised business training and development reports. It also signposts appropriate quality learning solutions to address skill shortfalls.

[>> Read more](#)

Martin Lancaster's visit to Northern Ireland

During his visit to Northern Ireland in September, to participate in the Skills Expert Group, Martin Lancaster, President of the [North Carolina Community College System](#), met with key figures to discuss local skills issues and how some of these could be addressed by drawing on examples of best practice in North Carolina.



L-R Nigel Smyth, Director of [CBI NI](#), Martin Lancaster, Nuala Kerr, DEL Skills and Industry Director, Declan Billington, Chairman of [CBI NI](#).



L-R Jonathan Guest IoD; Nuala Kerr; Martin Lancaster and James Toland IoD

Preparing for Success

On the 22nd October, Department for Employment and Learning and Department of Education jointly launched the Careers' Strategy '[Preparing for Success](#)' for consultation. The overall purpose of this paper is to make policy proposals for the future development of Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) and to set out a strategy that will address the CEIAG needs of individuals of all ages. The closing date for responses is 14 December 2007 and the Department would welcome responses to this consultation from all stakeholders. Responses can be e-mailed to cssu.account@delni.gov.uk or sent by post to: Mrs Judith Shaw, Careers and Guidance Services Branch,

Department for Employment and Learning, Lesley Buildings, 61 Fountain Street, Belfast, BT1 5EX.

What skills do employers need in their employees?

Through the Regional Skills Action Plan, a network of six Workforce Development Forums has been established to examine the skills needs of employers on a local level. These can only be effective if as many employers as possible work with these groups so that their needs can be articulated and taken into account. The Forums are chaired by a local employer and are supported by the six new FE colleges.

Region	Chairman	Contact
Belfast	Bro McFerran, Northbrook Technologies.	Belfast Metropolitan College: Paul White
Northern	Graham Whitehurst, Michelin Tyre plc.	Northern Regional College: Therese Brannigan
North Western	John Spangler, Seagate	Northwest Regional College: Geraldine Gray
South Western	TBC	Contact South West College: Victor Refausse
Southern	TBC	Southern Regional College: Tony McConville
South Eastern	John Toner, Slieve Donard Resort & Spa.	South Eastern Regional College: Alice Adams

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