

South of Scotland Skills & Learning Network PROJECT **UPDATE**

This eNewsletter aims to highlight some of the progress being made.

Colleges Bring Digital Learning to Parliament

Dumfries & Galloway College and Borders College have showcased their expertise in digital skills at the annual Colleges Scotland reception at the Scottish Parliament.

The event allowed MSPs to hear about how Scotland's colleges are enabling learners to access learning, training, and skills via multiple routes that lead to fulfilling careers and employment opportunities.

Dumfries & Galloway College staff were in attendance with Borders College to update members on the progress being made in digital learning developments at each college.

Both South of Scotland colleges used their presence at the prestigious annual event to promote their involvement with the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP), including the new renewable hub at Dumfries and Galloway College's Dumfries campus and the new Borders College STEM Hub at Hawick and Technology Enhanced Care Hub in Galashiels. Along with the technology, both colleges will be deploying to work with schools and businesses in their respective regions as part of the SoSEP joint project.

Each College will work with digital spokes located across the South of Scotland in schools, community venues and within businesses to provide inclusive learning access to school and college students and employers wishing to upskill their current workforce.

The reception represented a true partnership between Scotland's colleges with students from West Highland College also attending to take



photographs and Edinburgh College students creating a video to mark the event.

Dumfries & Galloway College Principal Joanna Campbell said:

"It was a pleasure to join with our colleagues from Scotland's other brilliant colleges at this celebration of the great work our further education sector does. Digital skills are only going to grow in importance in the future and that's why we at Dumfries & Galloway College take them so seriously when it comes to preparing our learners for their futures. I wish to extend my thanks to all our college partners and to Colleges Scotland for hosting this highly anticipated event each year and for ensuring it continues to be a success."

Borders College Principal Angela Cox commented:

"This was an excellent opportunity for Borders College to showcase how we are embedding technology into our curriculum delivery and preparing the current and future workforce with the necessary skills."

‘Get That Degree’: college collaborated routes to degrees within the region

For many in the South of Scotland, the prospect of studying for a degree can appear a distant dream, but this does not necessarily need to be the case. In September, I took on the role of Progression Manager, tasked with developing a framework for delivering degree programmes within the region. This collaborative role, between Dumfries & Galloway College and Borders College, will pave the way for establishing local degree provision in partnership with Scottish Universities. By overcoming many of the barriers and perceptions that impede the current uptake of degree level education, this project will establish accessible routes enabling local study that fits with the needs of the population.

Education is the backbone of industry and therefore the courses developed will respond to employer demands and invest in future proofing the regions’ workforce. With a long career in Higher Education behind me, I have seen the benefits of widening access to degree programmes both for the individual and in contributing to economic development. The South of Scotland has so much to gain by supporting the colleges to offer targeted degree education.

Although there are some opportunities to study for a degree within the region, these are limited. The degree programmes offered by the Crichton and SRUC Campuses in Dumfries and the Heriot-Watt University Campus in Galashiels do not provide the range of subjects available for study throughout the rest of Scotland. The Open University of course, has always provided a flexible route to distance learning, although this is not suitable for every learner. In addition, both colleges do offer Graduate Apprenticeships in certain subject areas allowing individuals to gain degree level vocational qualifications whilst working, but the scope is limited.

Traditionally, school leavers were able to

enter Higher Education if they met the entry requirements. Those unable or unwilling to enter university from school had the opportunity to study for HNC or HND locally with the potential for advanced entry to a degree course upon completion. The vast majority of students have to move away from the South of Scotland to attend university as it is rarely feasible to commute from the region for the duration of the course.



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Collaboration to build employer-ready South of Scotland

Although this provides an exciting opportunity for many students, the need to move away is prohibitive for others. Responsibilities for family or dependants, work commitments or financial limitations can all make a move unfeasible. This impacts on mature students wanting to return to study particularly hard. Even for those able to make the move, the change from the South of Scotland community to a busy university can be

challenging and, as a result, the region has one of the highest levels of students returning home before completion of their first year at university. For those who complete their degree, relatively few return to the South of Scotland. This results in the loss of young people to the community and a relative lack of residents educated to degree level. Economic sustainability of the region requires that we retain or attract a population that is able to develop in line with future employment demands. The South of Scotland already has lower than average productivity in comparison to Scotland as a whole, and losing further talent will only maintain this position. By speaking to industry, we can focus the provision of local higher education to support upskilling the workforce, future developments and new emerging areas. Initial discussions emphasise educational needs in construction and engineering, social care, tourism and hospitality, rural studies and adventure sports, with an over-arching requirement for business knowledge.

In order to facilitate the delivery of degree programmes at the colleges, we need to work in collaboration, optimising the strength and depth of the South of Scotland offering and ensuring sustainable viability of courses. Together, we will partner with universities, who are able to award the degrees, and will take into consideration the best fit, specifically the subject area expertise and appreciation of the unique challenges faced in the area. The mode of delivery must accommodate the demands of the region and attract individuals who would not have otherwise studied for a degree. The establishment of the digital network across the South of Scotland provides an ideal platform for reaching students from Stranraer to Eyemouth. Rather than bringing the students to the centre of learning, we aim to deliver the learning to the students, thus negating the need for extensive



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travel. In addition, this allows greater flexibility in how individuals interact with the courses. This provides an attractive partnership opportunity for any university wanting to explore a more flexible approach to course delivery that widens access by engaging students who want to stay within the region, are already working, or who have other commitments.

In collaboration, the colleges will ensure that the offering contributes to employer demands and can gradually develop increased ownership of the programmes over time.

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In future, I envisage a diverse student population, spanning the entire region, accessing virtual learning via the digital network, whilst working and contributing towards skills development in the South of Scotland's prosperous landscape. My current role represents the first step towards this vision, but it is clearly a step worth investing in.



*Dr. Jane McKenzie,
Progression Manager*

Scottish Learning Festival 2019



*John Wilson, Calum Rodgers,
Conor Bradley*

Following on from the success of the CDN Expo, Dumfries & Galloway College's IT Manager, Calum Rodgers and Borders College E-Learning Manager, Conor Bradley joined Ajenta once again at the Scottish Learning Festival in September.

Ajenta invited Calum and Conor to share their VScene journey as part of their workshop talking about how connected classrooms are changing the face of education. The partnership between Dumfries & Galloway College and Borders College is a perfect example of how VScene technology is breaking down walls in classrooms and opening up learning to a wider audience, irrespective of their

location.

Calum spoke about the SoSEP project overview, introducing the aims that both Colleges set out to achieve at the start and the fact finding mission that led to the partnership with Ajenta for the technology being used. Conor then went on to discuss the technical detail of the partnership with Ajenta and how the technology is helping to develop digital learning at both Colleges throughout their multiple Campuses.

Ajenta have been key to the success of the SoSEP project and their knowledge and products have made the digital learning aspects seamless so far.

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EduTech Scotland 2019

Dumfries & Galloway College joined Ajenta at EduTech Scotland this month as part of their workshop and masterclass presenting about VScene technology.

Billy Currie, Head of Corporate Services was given the opportunity to present on the South of Scotland Digital Skills and Learning Network, talking through the project so far – the realities and the successes that have helped the project get to where it is today and what the vision and scope is for the remainder of the project.

Ajenta are proud to own and operate the only video collaboration platform designed to work in the education sector to remove geographical barriers in learning and to have a recommendation and speech on behalf of the College helped to bolster their masterclass' credibility.

Billy also sat on the expert panel after his presentation, in order to take questions from audience members and discuss the partnership between Ajenta and Dumfries & Galloway College.



Green Economy Awards



Dumfries & Galloway College returned to the Green Economy Awards to showcase the work into “going green” at the College, especially with the new building projects. Kerry Martin, Project Manager attended the Green Economy awards at Edinburgh’s Dynamic Earth. This followed on from the previous year when the College was awarded £95,000 from the Green Economy fund received on behalf of the College by Billy Currie, Head of Corporate Services. It was a wonderful opportunity to return and be able to demonstrate how the money has been spent in the quest to go green.

*Billy Currie,
Head of Corporate Services*

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Business Briefing Event



Principal of Dumfries & Galloway College, Joanna Campbell welcomed regional business leaders in September for a preview of the work taking place at the Dumfries Campus. The prominent and influential local figures were welcomed to

the College to learn about the exciting progress of the brand new Green Energy Centre and the refurbished and newly renamed Henry Duncan Innovation & Research Centre, where the new Digital Healthcare Centre is located. After a welcome reception, guests were split into four groups where they in turn heard about the work in renewable energy going on at the College and took a tour of the current engineering department. Guests were then guided through both floors of the Henry Duncan Innovation & Research Centre to see the new facilities on offer including the digital screen wall, the live linking to the Stranraer Campus and the simulated dementia friendly care home. This was considered the highlight of the day by many in attendance and was also the first time the live link had been used other

than in a test environment – staff were delighted that everything went smoothly. Attendees were also given the chance to speak in person with college senior management, including the new Principal, who were available to answer questions and discuss the college's plans to promote technology, accessibility, teaching innovation, and working in partnership on campus. The event was rounded up when guests were treated to lunch and refreshments which were freshly prepared and served by Hospitality & Professional Cookery students from both the Dumfries & Stranraer Campus. Among those in attendance were representatives from Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Ajenta, the Chamber of Commerce, SCDI, and Hoggett Creative Limited, among others. Continuing and strengthening the positive relationship that Dumfries and Galloway College has with local business and the broader South of Scotland community has been identified as a priority for the Principal and her team as she implements her strategic vision.

Principal Joanna Campbell commented....
"It was a pleasure to welcome these prominent business people to our campus and to exchange ideas and views with them. Our shared commitment to the

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economy of the South of Scotland mean that we have much in common and are all driven to do our bit for our area. We also share a profound commitment to technology and its use in the classroom – which will help equip our students for the roles they aim for

after they leave Dumfries & Galloway College. I look forward to working with them all in the future and to welcoming them back to our College for further collaboration.”



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STEM Centre, Stranraer

The STEM Centre at the Stranraer Campus of Dumfries & Galloway College has been successfully completed and is now only awaiting a building warrant as the final step as part of the Digital Skills and Learning Network.

The project has consisted of two elements – an extension to the existing training and educational facilities in the form of an engineering workshop, alongside a brand new building being used as a STEM classroom. The latter includes a 98 inch interactive tv screen, which with the help of VScene technology will give the Campus the ability to address skills gaps in areas such as Energy, Construction & Care as well by linking directly to classes throughout the region at the Dumfries Campus, in the designated digital spokes and at Borders College.

The STEM Centre and the digital spokes are not only available for students of Dumfries & Galloway College – the aim is to open up learning for schools, as well as employers wishing to upskill their current workforce. There will also be the opportunity in phase two for businesses to become digital spokes working in line with the College, meaning their workforce won't need to leave the business premises to receive training in some cases.

Currently, schools in the region which have become digital spokes are Douglas Ewart High School, Castle Douglas High School, Sanquhar Academy, Annan Academy and The Bridge Campus in Dumfries.



STEM Centre Exterior



STEM Classroom



STEM Workshop

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Court Yard view of STEM Centre



STEM Classroom - Flexible Workspace

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The Digital Healthcare Centre



Digital Healthcare Centre

The brand new Digital Healthcare Centre at the Dumfries Campus is now complete and awaiting formal documentation to allow occupancy. This exciting centre is incorporated into the newly renamed Henry Duncan Innovation & Research Centre. This redesigned and refurbished area has taken on a whole new identity with the space created and facilities installed to enable the development of Health & Social Studies learning at the College.

Whilst some of the original features of the building have been kept in order to recognise the contributions of the original sponsors, both floors have been transformed to keep in line with today's requirements for digital learning.

The top floor is a bright and open flexible learning space which can also be used as a multipurpose event space, fitting up to 135 guests for a conference scenario.

The digital screen wall which consists of 9 x 55inch TV's and is measured at 2.5m x 3.9m is the focal point of the room and thanks to the VScene technology installed, will allow for live linking to classrooms across the South of Scotland to enable a broader spectrum of learning. The live link has already been tested linking up to the Stranraer Campus as part of the Business Briefing event and the clarity of picture and lack of time delay has been praised by viewers.

Moving down to the Digital Healthcare Centre itself, from the entrance and throughout the entire ground floor, the design and décor has been led by the need to be dementia friendly through the use of colour & contrast. For example, in the bathroom there are several red fittings because red is seen as an easily recognisable colour, whilst the blue walls signal contrast so users with visual impairments can distinguish their surroundings easier. The centre is also fully accessible with many gadgets demonstrating best practice recommended by the healthcare industry.

The kitchen area features a rise & fall hob, sink and cupboard to allow wheelchair users to live independently. There are also easily accessible cupboards with pull down mechanisms for ease of reach.

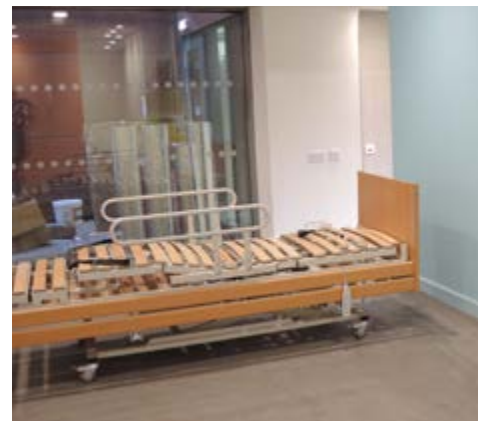
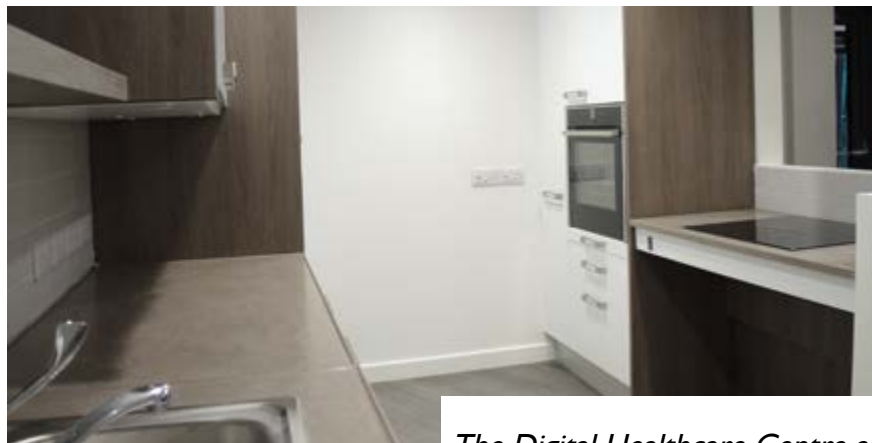
The bathroom has an accessible shower/wet room suitable for wheelchairs and a toilet that is electronically adjustable, giving the opportunity for the user to demonstrate personal hygiene without the need for a carer.

The bed is a Nexus hospital bed, with electronic commands which would allow users the chance for single handed care or independent living and also gives students the chance to learn how to operate the bed in a simulated situation before using one in the workplace with a user.

The living area is fully accessible with hoists

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in place and throughout the centre are strategically placed cameras, hearing loops and microphones. This gives students the opportunity to review their own practice and means staff can observe and provide feedback. The fully articulated nursing mannequins with a range of features will mean students can practice best care in the centre to build their confidence. The four pods and one video conference pod make a great space for study, to watch back lesson observations and to live link with other classrooms in a more private and quiet space. One to one feedback between staff and students will be conducted in the pods too, giving an interactive and personal learning experience for students. Health & Social Care studies classes will be delivered in this area with the aim to be able to add to the curriculum and training offering in the future.



The Digital Healthcare Centre at Dumfries is now being furnished ready for use.



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The Green Energy Centre



The Green Energy Centre at the Dumfries Campus has seen quite a lot of progress in the last few months with the addition of several new aspects.

Solar panels were installed outside the rear of the main building in October which will be used as a live teaching feature and work alongside the solar panels that will be installed on the roof of the Green Energy Centre.

November saw the installation of the brand new wind turbine, which will also act as a live teaching feature and be of particular interest for students studying Electrical Power Engineering – Wind Turbine at SCQF Level 6.

Other additions set to be installed are the use of ground source heating and air source heating, both of which will be live teaching aids, rain water harvesting and electric vehicles and charging points.

The building will be used to deliver engineering courses, renewables, trade events showcasing renewables and renewable awareness events to encourage other users and provide a greater understanding of the technology and why it's becoming so important to the environment.



First remote learning sessions delivered



Last month saw the first remote learning sessions delivered by Borders College to school pupils across the region as part of efforts to widen access to specialist subjects. Students located at Kelso and Selkirk High schools are connecting over video conference to the main college campus site at Galashiels twice a week to participate in lessons led by a college lecturer. This new delivery from a Digital Hub room out to Digital Spoke sites has saved the students significant time compared to previous years where these students would have to travel to the college site in Galashiels using a minibus.

Initial reactions from students have been positive with one Kelso student commenting “The sound and picture are really good. I wasn’t expecting to be able to see all the other students as well as our lecturer so it’s really impressive.” College instructional designer Helen McNeill added “the quality of the

experience is much improved over pilot sessions we’ve tried in previous years using consumer level equipment” while noting that “this delivery method brings new challenges that we need to overcome to give students the same quality experience as they receive in our face to face lessons”.

The remote learning sessions have been made possible by significant



investment from the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency (SOSEA) as part of its goal to develop skills and the economy in the South of Scotland region. Currently the college has five

digital spoke sites in Earlston, Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Kelso and Selkirk High school but plans to expand its network with further spoke sites early in 2020. These sites are also connected to the wider South of Scotland DigiSkillsScotland network with further locations across Dumfries & Galloway.

The college is monitoring progress in the Higher Psychology closely and plans to take the lessons learned forward as it expands the range of courses it delivers remotely in the 2020/21 academic year. PM for Digital Delivery Conor Bradley commented that “the DigiSkillScotland network really expands on the learning opportunities that Borders students will have access to” and the college expects that

“remote delivery like this will become a new normal option for students who previously would never have considered certain courses with us due to travel or time commitments”.

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STEM Hub and renewables centre



STEM Hub

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Hub is a space to celebrate all of the aforementioned, with a focus on Construction. Within the hub, there are examples of the latest technology within the industry for use by students, staff and employers. We want the hub to be an asset to the community as a whole and a space to inspire, educate and innovate. Technologies within the hub will include thermal imaging, 3D printing, virtual reality, various construction and design software, amongst other things. With cutting edge thermal imaging technology we are hoping to be able to enrich the skills of our students in plumbing, electrical engineering, construction and develop an emphasis on renewables. Staff have been undertaking Thermography Level 1 courses with FLIR to be able to aid businesses in utilising the benefits of thermal imaging across many fields, including electrical engineering, plumbing, bricklaying and renewable maintenance. Thermal imaging will also be available to local employers to be trained or to use the equipment with an operative to enhance their business and expand their skills and services. Staff at the STEM Hub are busy upskilling in a variety of skills in order to ensure that courses are up to date and at the



cutting edge of industry are being delivered. These skills include being able to ‘pilot’ a drone to give employers access to the variety of options available, including aerial thermal imaging and photography. Building Information Modelling (BIM) is the use of design software to fully integrate the various phases of a build (wiring, plumbing, architect’s plans) seamlessly before a build starts. This enables efficiency throughout the build and of the building itself. BIM combined with virtual reality (VR) is a powerful tool for teaching, learning and for businesses to help clients envisage a project from the design stage. The STEM hub has a suite of laptops with construction related, BIM compatible software available. Having this available to students and local businesses can enable upskilling in the sector and help keep the South of Scotland at the forefront of construction. Hub staff are in the process of upskilling in the relevant software and BIM practices to ensure course delivery is up to date and correctly targeted. 3D printing is a very useful tool and the future of manufacturing on an increasing scale. Having 3D facilities available at the hub can provide the means for local businesses and students to learn about this method of additive manufacturing

or to utilise it to make bespoke parts for projects.

These technologies will form the foundation of a STEM hub that intends to stay and develop at the cutting edge of technology within the construction sector, in line with the needs of the area to make sure the South of Scotland can continue to grow some of its best assets.

Eco Room

The Eco Room is the newly built section of the hub, it utilises a Passive House approach to ensure high energy efficiency; making best use of new materials, superinsulation, triple glazing and solar gain. Passive House design ensures airtightness and creates a space that is self-ventilating. Using the footage recorded from all stages of the build, virtual reality will enable learners to immerse themselves in each aspect of the build and see how different materials are used to maximise efficiency.

Environmental monitoring and thermal imaging will help to demonstrate how the methods used to build the Eco Room differ from more traditional structures. The principles of airtightness can be exhibited using an airtightness testing kit and training can be provided on this to students and local businesses alike. The key parts of the Eco Room that will enable specific energy efficiency training and awareness include:

Airtight layer

A construction layer that prevents the passage of warm air through gaps in the structure, this prevents heat loss and protects the structure from interstitial condensation.

Airtight tape

A flexible reinforced tape with permanent non-drying adhesive. Used to seal junctions between construction components.

Airtight membrane

A reinforced vapour check and air-tightness layer.



Prevents the passage of moisture vapour to the structure, but allows drying out of the structure (variable diffusion resistance).

Service penetrations

EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer) sealing grommets to provide permanent airtight feedthrough for cables and pipes.

MVHR

Mechanical Ventilation Heat Recovery. A system to provide continuous fresh air to the building whilst recovering up to 97% of the heat from the extract air.

Solar PV

Photovoltaic cells capture energy from the sun and convert it to electricity, this can be used in the building, stored in batteries or sent back to the national grid.

Floor structure

300 mm of structural insulation topped with a reinforced concrete raft. The structural floor is completely isolated from the ground to prevent heat loss.

Wall structure

Sustainable wood fibre insulation material; a breathable material with low thermal conductivity and high thermal mass.



Green roof

A living roof of robust plants builds upon a waterproof layer. Green roofs look great and promote biodiversity, reduce sound transmission and retard rainwater runoff.

Renewables Room

The Renewables Room aims to facilitate the training of our students, apprentices and local businesses on the latest developments within the renewable energy sector.



Consultation with local industry and businesses will help us to focus in on what is best for the region and support the South of Scotland in being skills rich in the developing field of renewables. As our renewable facility develops, a wealth of courses at different levels will be offered.

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STEM networking event shows the way

Borders College recently opened its doors to a group of influential businesses and industry professionals who were invited to hear about the social and economic benefits of learning and education, and how future jobs and the economy will be driven by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Key note speaker for the event was Wendy Pring, who is Chair of South of Scotland Regional Committee and board member at Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI), STEM ambassador, and Women's Enterprise Scotland ambassador.

As a civil engineer, who runs an environmental services consultancy, Wendy is passionate about attracting young women into careers in Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) where they are traditionally underrepresented.

Held at Borders College – Centre for Business Development in Hawick, delegates also had the



opportunity to find out about the recent STEM Developments at the Hawick Campus. The project, which is part of the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP) investment in the South of Scotland, has the aim of creating a digital learning platform and infrastructure to provide access to learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, irrespective of location.

Borders College Principal, Angela Cox commented:

“Our STEM Hub is part of SoSEP Funded Digital Skills and Learning Network, developed in conjunction with Dumfries & Galloway College. It connects virtually with our Technology Enhanced Care Hub facility on our Galashiels Campus and with the similar hubs in Dumfries & Galloway providing digital learning opportunities through 20 spokes located across the South of Scotland in schools, businesses and community locations.

“By providing expertise and accessibility to technologies locally we will improve productivity for local businesses and prepare your future work force. In addition, we'll work with our national innovation centre partners to make innovation locally accessible, leading the way to a progressive future.”

Also addressing delegates, Holly Farnham, the STEM Hub Manager at Borders College went on to say:

“Our passion for sustainability and living with as little environmental impact as possible does not stop with employers. Our communities within the South of Scotland are essential to us as people



to the Fourth Industrial Revolution

and colleges. We want our network to be an asset in the communities that they are located and to the South of Scotland as a whole. Community courses and open days will provide a space for engaging with current issues, self-development and meeting new people as well as serving our local businesses by providing the means to upskill and grow.”

Delegates also heard about the latest SCDI projects, research and events designed to support businesses in the South of Scotland, as well as touring the STEM facility and speaking with a number of businesses who were on hand to discuss their products.

In addition to the event and as part of the ongoing partnership, Borders College has developed a hot desking facility for SCDI members within the Campus. Angela Cox presented Sara Thiam, SCDI



skills which will help organisations succeed and ensure Scotland helps lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We’re grateful to Borders College for opening up this unique facility to our members. I know it will prove invaluable to them when they are in the Borders on business.”

As part of the well attended event, which saw over 60 key stakeholders and businesses, ThermaFY Thermal Imaging Software were on hand to discuss and showcase their unique Thermal Imaging software, which can be used via a mobile app and has benefits in both building and home use as well as benefits to those looking after and caring for animals.

Providing information on renewable energy was Muirhall Energy, who are a leading independent developer of renewable energy projects, based in Lanarkshire.

The Royal Society for Edinburgh displayed their ‘Women in Science’ mobile exhibition which celebrates some of Scotland’s finest female scientists.

The official opening of the STEM Hub, in Hawick, will take place in December and there will be opportunities for both the local community and local businesses to visit the Campus to find out about the latest developments in the coming months.



Chief Executive, with a plaque to officially mark the launch of the new area.

The event closed with Sara Thiam thanking the College for hosting the event and for their ongoing support, as well as taking the opportunity to remind attendees about the benefits of SCDI. Sara commented:

“What marks SCDI members out from other organisations is their commitment to an economy in which everyone participates and has a chance to benefit. Scotland’s ambitious climate change targets will drive industry transformation at a scale and pace seldom seen in Scotland. Every sector must play its part to ensure no community is left behind. Colleges play a crucial role in equipping people with the



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Experience the Construction of the BSTEM Hub

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Preview event showcases the future of

The latest technological advancements in the delivery of care training were previewed at an exclusive event, held at Scottish Borders Campus recently. In advance of the official December launch, as part of the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP) project in the south of Scotland, a select group of key partners and stakeholders were given the opportunity to see in action the very latest in health care training technology, which will enable both current and future health care workers to develop essential key skills.



The Technology Enhanced Care Hub (BTECH) is part of the ambitious SoSEP project, which is a collaboration between Borders College, Dumfries and Galloway College and the NHS and Care sector to address the skills shortage in the care sector, as well as ensuring the upskilling of current staff from Stranraer to Eyemouth, using latest technologies within the sector.

The SoSEP initiative has enabled curriculum delivery to develop in line with current and future digital expectations, and to harness the innovations that are available to educators providing health & social care.

The group were given a tour of two recently refurbished classrooms which represent the essence of integrated care delivery – a mock

home and an acute ward area. The project has enabled the enhancement of each of these facilities with the most up-to-date equipment, including a Nursing Anne Simulator, a Tissue Viability MAP Sensor, Resus Anne QCPR Torso and digital cameras to observe and record practice.

Guests were given a 15 minute demonstrations of three different scenarios, supported by NHS Borders employed students and SB Cares staff. They showed how the new facilities operate and how they can be used for teaching purposes within the College.

Each area has been equipped to provide a digitally enhanced interactive learning environment that will propel



f 'Technology Enhanced Care' training

the health and social care curriculum into the 21st century. The Borders College Technology Enhanced Care Hub (BTECH) will enable the College to train the health and social care workforce in line with local and national expectations for now and in the future. The College have also developed relevant digital teaching and learning materials to enable remote learning. This has huge significance in enabling wider access for learners in such a rural area.



The development for the Acute and Community Care qualification has been funded by SoSEP and provides the College with the opportunity to expand their curriculum delivery to SCQF level 8. The College have also worked in close collaboration with NHS Borders in developing this curriculum, and have recruited senior staff from NHS Borders from the Acute setting to help deliver the course.

Borders College Principal Angela Cox commented:

“This is the result of partnership working at its best. Our collaborative approach to developing this provision supports our continued focus on delivering excellence and ensuring people in the Borders have access to the best learning opportunities that results in sustainable employment.”



Assistant Principal Jayne Gracie commented:

“This SoSEP initiative has been great in terms of enabling us to develop our curriculum here at Borders College. We have created a complete digitally enhanced interactive learning environment that covers not just new practical skills development around the use of technology-enabled care, helping to support individuals both in acute settings and a home environment but, also to upskill staff and students in the delivery of on line learning. BTECH has provided us with a

modern learning platform that we can further develop in the future.”

The new equipment is already in use, with the current cohort of students being the first group to benefit from the new clinical skills lab and the new simulated home care environment.



About the SoSEP investment

This eNewsletter aims to highlight some of the progress being made.

The South of Scotland is benefiting from an investment of just over 6.6 million pounds as part of plans approved by the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP), in July 2018, to enable the creation of a digital learning platform and infrastructure that aims to provide access to learning opportunities for individuals of all ages, irrespective of location.

The investment sees a partnership between Dumfries & Galloway College and Borders College to develop a network of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Hubs across the South of Scotland, to address the immediate skills gaps in areas such as Energy and Engineering,

Construction and Care. These will be accessible to school and college students and employers wishing to try the latest technologies or upskill their current workforce. A number of digital spokes, located across the South of Scotland in schools, community venues and in local business premises provide inclusive access. Lessons delivered elsewhere will be open for others to participate in, along with online learning resources. Through this investment, the colleges are collaborating to develop their offering within their respective regions, especially at higher levels, and grow their online flexible learning provision over the next five years.



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