

NORTHERN Regional College

Media Review January 2021

from 01/01/2021 to 31/01/2021



Ballymena Daily | 28/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 26,200
Also published in Northern Regional College

Northern Regional College says Higher Level Apprenticeships a 'win-win' for employees and employers

Pictured: Jordan Gaw, a second year Computing HLA at Northern Regional College. HIGHER Level Apprenticeships (HLA) offer a 'win-win' situation for those involved by delivering work-based training and...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ballymena Guardian | 28/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 8,642

Engineer Chris scoops top award at Northern Regional College

...Computing, and Integrative Counselling. For further information on Foundation Degree programmes and other full time and part time courses at the College, visit www.nrc.ac.uk to explore our range of courses.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



MARTIN MCNEOWN.

Celebrity chef gives NRC students some food for thought...

CELEBRITY chef Paula McIntyre took some time out of her hectic schedule to give professional cookery students at Northern Regional College's Ballymoney campus some insider tips on how to reduce food waste.

Minimising food waste is a constant challenge for professional chefs and Paula's Sustainable Vegetable Masterclass focussed on food waste and introduced the students to the concept of 'root to fruit' with mouth-watering results.

With a selection of locally sourced, seasonal vegetables, she created a variety of tasty dishes, illustrating perfectly how all parts of the vegetable, including the roots and the leaves can be used.

Paula also explained how peelings and tops of vegetables could be used for dehydration, smoking or fermentation.

Lecturer Jane McAuley said the masterclass was very beneficial for the students as it incorporated pasta, pulses, roots, stems, leaves, bulbs and seeds, all of which are criteria for the Professional Cookery Vegetable unit.

She continued: "With today's growing emphasis on reducing food waste, chefs have to get creative to be able to use all parts of the vegetable, so Paula's Masterclass certainly gave our students plenty of food for thought."

Root to fruit (or root to stem) dining is an emerging food philosophy that encourages people to

think, not just about the origin of their food, but its environmental impact, from the growing or rearing stage to the moment it reaches your plate and beyond.

Pictured right, celebrity chef Paula McIntyre cooks up a treat for students at Northern Regional College's Ballymoney campus.



Chef Paula McIntyre delivers a masterclass to professional cookery students at Northern Regional College's Ballymoney campus.



starts with a cooking demonstration in the R.E. department.

launch our Virtual Open Day in the

and college members will be invited to attend

Mature student Chris proves that he is a class act after scooping award!

A MATURE engineering student from Antrim has been awarded the prestigious Dayle Smyth Endeavour Award for his outstanding performance at Northern Regional College in Ballymena.

Chris McConnaghie, who is employed as maintenance manager with SDC Trailers in Toomebridge, completed the Foundation Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering with distinction at the College.

He is currently doing a BEng (Hons) degree.

Originally from Ballycastle Chris now lives in Antrim and is married with a young son and another baby on the way.

He said his decision to attend the College was prompted by the realisation that accredited qualifications could help with his career progression.

Having left school at sixteen, Chris admitted that as a teenager, he didn't have much interest in qualifications but that changed as he got older.

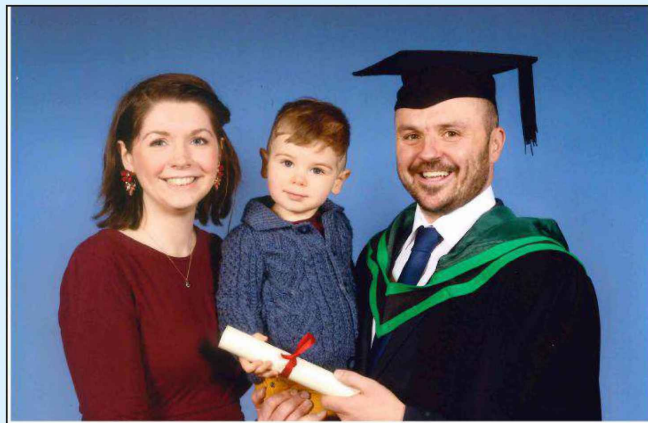
While working in the maintenance department of MDF Ltd in Antrim - which is part of the Retlan Manufacturing group which includes SDC Trailers - he decided to do a BTEC in Engineering at the College's Ballymena campus as a stepping stone to going to university.

"The company was very accommodating and allowed me to change my hours so I could attend the College one day a week."

Going back to school after a break of over 15 years was not without its challenges but Chris said the positives outweighed the negatives.

"I was the oldest in the class and, although there were other mature students, most of the students were teenagers."

"When I was younger, I wasn't very focused on qualifications but now that I'm in my mid



Chris McConnaghie pictured with his wife Holly and son Henry.

"thirties and have valuable work experience under my belt, I could see the relevance and importance of what was being taught in class and that certainly helped."

Having come through the BTEC with flying colours, Chris was able to progress to the Foundation Degree in Electronic and Engineering within the College in Ballymena.

He continued: "The Foundation Degree was my route to university. I was working full-time but the course was delivered one day a week so I felt it was achievable and, once again, the

company allowed me to change my hours around so I could attend College."

Chris said he was delighted to graduate with distinction and getting the Dayle Smyth Award was 'the icing on the cake'.

"It is a huge honour to be selected. I faced some challenges throughout my time at the College but I was always determined to keep going."

"I hope my story will inspire others to persevere and that like me, they'll find that it's well worth the effort."

The Dayle Smyth Endeavour Award is presented annually in memory of Dayle Smyth, an outstanding former student at Northern Regional College in Ballymena, who tragically lost his life in a road traffic collision in 2014, soon after achieving his Higher National Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering.

Dayle's father Garry said the award, which this year was presented virtually because of COVID restrictions, helped keep Dayle's memory alive.

Mark Maginty, co-ordinator of the part-time Foundation Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Ballymena, explained why Chris was selected for the Dayle Smyth Endeavour Award.

"Chris completed the Foundation Degree with an overall distinction which is an excellent achievement, but it was his journey that we felt merited the award."

"Chris became a father while he was due to sit his second-year exams."

"He was not able to study properly or complete final sections of his coursework. As a result, his exams and courseworks were deferred to allow him time to mentally prepare, he subsequently passed with flying colours."

"Christopher is a delight to have in class and is a real credit to the College."

Northern Regional College offers Foundation Degrees in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Construction Engineering with Surveying, Sports Science, Coaching and Fitness, Health and Social Care, Applied and Medical Science, Early Childhood Studies, Computing, and Integrative Counselling.

For further information on Foundation Degree programmes and other full time and part time courses at the College, visit www.nrc.ac.uk to explore our range of courses.

Media Source Press Page 15

Circulation 13,725

Also published in Ballymoney Chronicle



MARTIN McKEOWN,

Celebrity chef gives **NRC** students some food for thought...

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Chef Paula McIntyre delivers a masterclass to professional cookery students at Northern Regional College's Ballymoney campus.



Department for the Economy NI | 22/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 10,930

Dodds announces public appointment extensions

...John McGrillen, have been further extended for six months from 1 February 2021 to 31 July 2021. **Northern Regional College** The tenures of two GB members, Isobel Allison and Gillian McConnell, have been...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ballymena Daily | 21/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 26,200

Also published in Northern Regional College

Chris scoops top award at Northern Regional College in Ballymena

...Computing, and Integrative Counselling. For further information on Foundation Degree programmes and other full time and part time courses at the College, visit www.nrc.ac.uk to explore the range of courses.

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Causeway Chamber of Commerce | 21/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

New Vice Principal appointed at Northern Regional College



Northern Regional College has appointed Christine Brown as the new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning. With an established career of over 20 years in the further education sector, Christine, who...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ballymena Times | 20/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	57,210
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NRC graduate sets up his own business

...community organisations, businesses and schools," he said. Mark McNally, who recently graduated from **Northern Regional College** Having previously benefitted from counselling himself, Mark, who has a bachelor's...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



News Letter | 19/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	188,369
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Mark sets up new Bremar Training

...Computing and Applied and Medical Sciences. For information on these and other HE opportunities at **Northern Regional College**, go to www.nrc.ac.uk A message from the Editor: Thank you for reading this story...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 19/01/2021

Media Source

Online

Visits

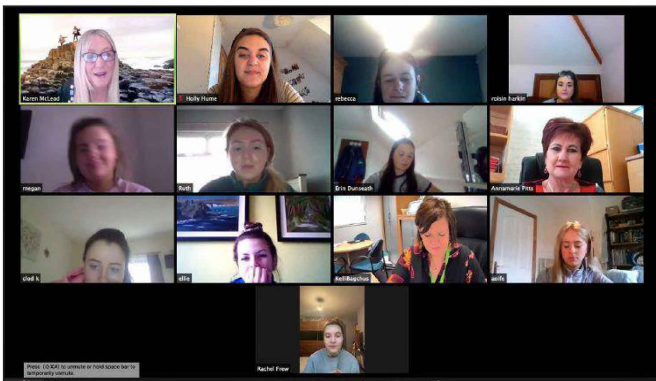
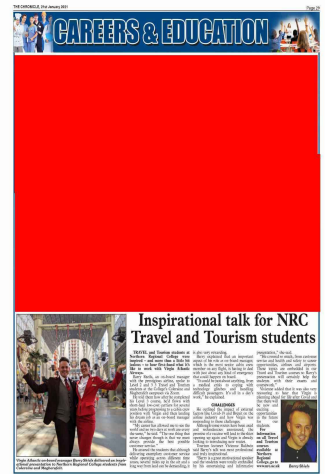
15,148

Celebrity Chef Gives Northern Regional College Students Food for Thought

Celebrity chef Paula McIntyre took some time out of her hectic schedule to give professional cookery students at Northern Regional College's Ballymoney campus some insider tips on how to reduce food waste....

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press Page 29
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballycastle Chronicle [+ 1 more]



Northern Regional College students join together with students from Vuselela College in South Africa via Zoom.



During an educational visit to South Africa, **Northern Regional College** travel and tourism lecturer, Karen McLeod delivered the World Host Ambassador qualification to travel and tourism students at Vuselela College in South Africa.

Reaching out across the world

Northern Regional College links up with Vuselela College in South Africa...via Zoom

DESPITE all the travel restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, travel and tourism students at **Northern Regional College** are still sharing international best practice experiences with students in South Africa.

Level 2 and 3 students from the College's Ballymena campus, used Zoom to extend the walls of their online classroom for a virtual catch-up with Vuselela TVET in north-west South Africa.

Travel and Tourism lecturer, Karen McLeod said she was delighted with how her students had engaged with technology to maintain the link the Vuselela College.

"Study visits, which promote international understanding, intercultural learning and skills, are an important part of the travel and tourism curriculum but current travel restrictions meant

we had to be innovative and offer international learning opportunities to our students in another way," Karen explained.

The Ballymena students aware joined on the Zoom call by Anna Marie Pitts, Programme Manager of Vuselela College; former student Holly Hume who visited the College in South Africa and is now doing a degree in International Travel and Tourism at Ulster University; and Kelli McRoberts, Manager of Carrick Enterprise Agency.

Karen continued: "We had a great session, which was both educational and entertaining. We discussed the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning and shared our thoughts and vision for the recovery of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries post-Covid."

"It's interesting to realise that students everywhere face similar issues and challenges but, despite everything that's going on, they still share

the same positive outlook for the future of the industry."

Anne Marie Pitts acknowledged that the increased use of communication technology was a possible positive consequence of Covid.

"The pandemic has forced us to expand our knowledge of communication technology like Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter etc., to allow us to connect with each other instantly and face-to-face."

"I think it's fantastic that **Northern Regional College** is incorporating this advanced technology to internationalise its travel and tourism curriculum and it is our goal to ultimately empower students to do likewise," Anne Marie said.

Kelli McRoberts, who previously collaborated with **Northern Regional College** through the Coastal Tourism Hub programme, said she was delighted to have an opportunity to take part in the discussion with students and lecturers from

Northern Regional College and Vuselela College.

"It was great to re-connect and share my experiences of working with tourism businesses along the Causeway Coastal route and share our plans to re-imagine the business as a result of Covid."

Holly Hume told the students that she really appreciated the value of international visits.

"I had a brilliant experience as a travel and tourism student at **Northern Regional College** and know from my own personal experience how much students can learn when they embrace international opportunities and learning. I am passionate about this concept and it was great to be able to share experiences with the students. Covid-19 has impacted on us all, wherever we live, study and work in the world so it was interesting to hear the perspective of students in another part of the world," Holly said.

Media Source

Press

Page

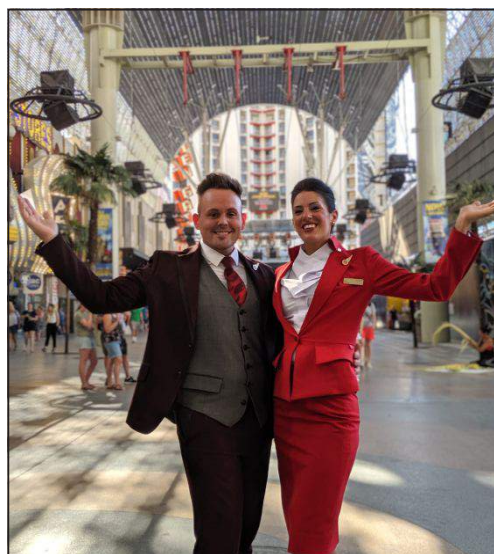
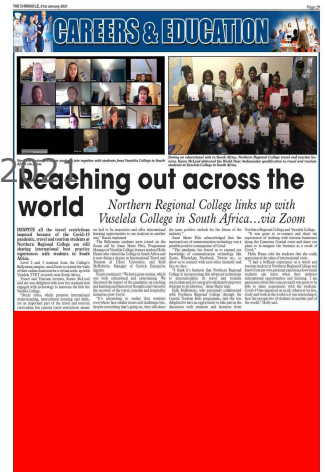
29

Circulation

13,725

Also published in

Ballycastle Chronicle [+ 2 more]



Virgin Atlantic on-board manager Barry Shiels delivered an inspirational presentation to Northern Regional College students from Coleraine and Magherafelt.

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel and Tourism students

TRAVEL and Tourism students at Northern Regional College were inspired – and more than a little bit jealous – to hear first-hand what it's like to work with Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Barry Shiels, an on-board manager with the prestigious airline, spoke to Level 2 and 3 Travel and Tourism students at the College's Coleraine and Magherafelt campuses via Zoom.

He told them how after he completed his Level 3 course, he'd flown with short-haul low-cost carriers for several years before progressing to a cabin crew position with Virgin and then landing his dream job as an on-board manager with the airline.

"My career has allowed me to see the world and no two days at work are every the same," he said. "The one thing that never changes though is that we must always provide the best possible customer service."

He assured the students that although delivering exemplary customer service while operating across different time zones, several miles up in the air and a long way from land can be demanding, it

is also very rewarding.

Barry explained that an important aspect of his role as on-board manager, which is the most senior cabin crew member on any flight, is having to deal with just about any kind of emergency that could happen on board.

"It could be just about anything, from a medical crisis to coping with technology glitches and handling difficult passengers. It's all in a day's work," he explained.

CHALLENGES

He outlined the impact of external factors like Covid-19 and Brexit on the airline industry and how Virgin was responding to these challenges.

Although some routes have been axed and redundancies announced, the promise of a vaccine will lead to the skies opening up again and Virgin is already looking to introducing new routes.

Tourism lecturer Vivienne Baldwin said Barry's talk was most professional and truly inspirational.

"Barry is a great motivational speaker and the students were totally enthralled by his entertaining and informative

presentation," she said.

"He covered so much, from customer service and health and safety to career opportunities, airlines and airports. These topics are embedded in our Travel and Tourism courses so Barry's presentation will certainly help the students with their exams and coursework."

Vivienne added that it was also very reassuring to hear that Virgin is planning ahead for life after Covid and that there will be new and exciting opportunities in the future for our students.

For information on all Travel and Tourism courses available at Northern Regional College, go to www.nrc.ac.uk



Barry Shiels

Media Source Press Page 47

Circulation 13,725

Also published in Ballycastle Chronicle [+ 2 more]



WELL DONE OUR PIERCE

CONGRATULATIONS to Portrush teenager Pierce Quigley who has been presented with his NI caps after representing NI Schoolboys last season.

Pierce, on the books of Coleraine Football Club, won the caps after playing against Jersey.

The 17-year-old represented Northern Ireland against Jersey Under-18s and Under-21s in the Channel Islands.

He scored on his international debut and hopes to be included in the squad for the Centenary Shield - should it ever take place.

Aged 17, Pierce is currently studying at the Northern Regional College which itself boasted a fine football team last year.

FORWARD

But it hasn't all been plain sailing for the forward.

He has broken his foot on two occasions with unfortunate consequences.

On one occasion the injury prevented him from winning the SuperCupNI title with County Antrim when they defeated Man Utd in the final.

On the second occasion, his ill luck saw him miss out winning the Victory Shield with Northern Ireland.

Despite the setbacks, Jason has fought back to fitness and last season featured in Oran Kearney's squad in pre-season.

Well done to him.





Northern Regional College | 15/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148
Also published in Ballymena Daily

Northern Regional College Student Graduates and Sets Up Own Business

Mark McNally, who recently graduated from **Northern Regional College**, has gone on to set up his own business thanks to the skills and qualifications he gained through his studies. Mark spent four years at...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 14/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148

Public appointment opportunity at Northern Regional College

...for the Economy has launched a public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for **Northern Regional College (NRC)**. Economy Minister Diane Dodds said: "Developing the skills of our people..."

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source	Press	Page	20
Circulation	13,710		

Mum tells of how local college opened doors for her

Studying at Northern Regional College opened doors for a young Portstewart mother of two, who is now doing a degree in Architectural Technology at Ulster University.

Joanne Caskey - mum to Bobby (10) and Bella (5) - was awarded a Foundation Degree with Distinction in Construction with Surveying at the college's Higher Education graduations, paving the way for her to go to university.

Joanne said that even as a young child she was always interested in the design and construction of buildings, an interest she attributes to her father.

After leaving school, Joanne successfully completed a Level 3 Diploma in Construction at the college in Coleraine, but her longterm career plans were put on hold while she thought of her next move.

She worked in Asda whilst focusing on her young family but was drawn back to her original plan to work in the construction sector.

"Ten years after I completed my Diploma, I decided to go back to the college to do a Foundation Degree," Joanne explained.

"It's a roundabout route but it's working for me and I'm really enjoying it."

As part of the Foundation Degree, she secured a placement with multi-disciplinary architectural consultancy firm, GM Design Associates in Coleraine.

"The work I did at college and then the work placement with GM Design were great preparation for university and, because I was already familiar with much of the terminology, so I was well able to cope with the workload," Joanne said.

Joanne Caskey

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Department for the Economy NI | 14/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	10,930
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Public appointment opportunity within further education sector

...for the Economy has launched a public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for **Northern Regional College (NRC)**. Public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for ...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Department for the Economy NI | 14/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	10,930
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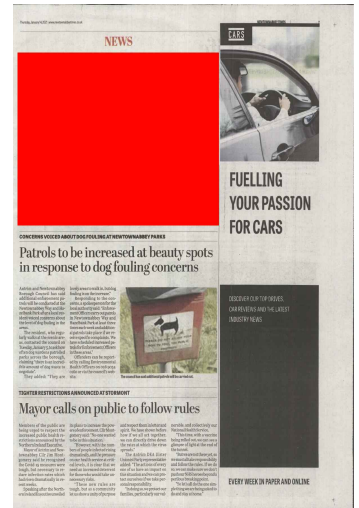
Northern Regional College - appointment of Chair of Governing Body

The Department for the Economy wishes to appoint a Chair to the Governing Body of **Northern Regional College (NRC)** with effect from 1 July 2021.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press
Circulation 6,715

Page 7



PLAUDITS FOR LECTURERS

NRC tutors support Julie through studies

By TIMES REPORTER
news@newtownabbeytimes.co.uk
@nabbeytimes

Northern Regional College lecturers have been thanked for supporting a former student who is now studying a Biomedical Science degree at university.

Julie Spratt did a Foundation Degree in Applied and Medical Science at Newtownabbey NRC campus after completing an Access Diploma at NRC in 2018.

She completed the course

in 2020, graduating with distinction and this was her steppingstone to becoming an undergraduate at Ulster University.

Julie, who left school at 16 with one GCSE to her name, wants to work in a medical research laboratory as a biomedical scientist after graduating.

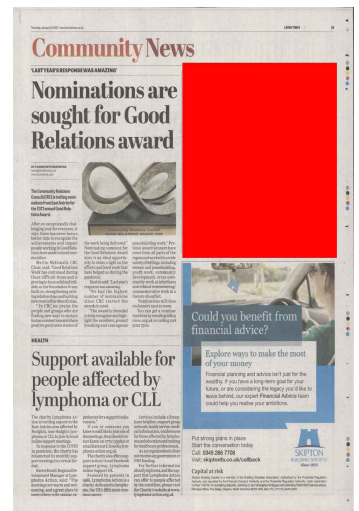
She said: "I started the Access Diploma in Social Science at Magherafelt campus in 2016 and transferred to Ballymena to do Science modules in my second year, and this allowed me to progress to do a Foundation Degree in Applied and Medical Science.

"As well as a getting a solid foundation in biomedical science and laboratory experience, I feel more confident about the competency of my IT and research skills and my ability to do presentations.

"I found that being a student at NRC helped me grow as a person. My self-belief, self-esteem and confidence in my own ability has really developed and this was in no small part due to the ever-present encouragement from the lecturers. Thanks to this support, I was motivated to go to university to study biomedical science."



Julie Spratt.



EDUCATION

Karen is top of the class at NR College

Newtownabbey-based Karen Kearns has graduated from **Northern Regional College** achieving the highest overall mark in her year group.

Karen, who recently completed a University of Ulster validated Foundation Degree in Integrative Counselling Practice at **NRC**, was nominated for the Dean's Award for her consistently high performance throughout her studies.

She said: "I became interested in studying counselling and began researching courses. **Northern Regional College's** offering gave a clear progression of study which was appealing to me.

"I began with a Level 2 course, then progressed to Level 3 before embarking upon the Foundation Degree."

Karen, who has a young son, said that the part-time aspect of the course also suited her



On course for success - Karen Kearns

well as she was able to balance studies with family commitments.

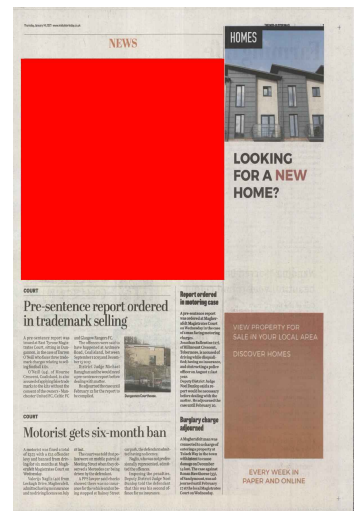
As part of their course, students are required to complete 100 hours of counselling through placement which

Karen said she found particularly rewarding: "I was lucky to secure placements in both a community counselling agency and in a GP surgery.

"This practical experience alongside my classroom learning really enhanced my confidence.

"The combination of placement and theory-based study makes the course extremely rich and diverse. The standard of teaching and support offers a fantastic learning experience."

Karen has now her sights on ambitious goals including more study at **NRC**: "I intend to stay on in placement to gain more experience and also work towards becoming accredited and having my own practice. I am also interested in further study with the College."



PRAISE FOR FAMILY AND LECTURERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Julie battles cancer as she changes career

By STAFF REPORTER
news@midulstermail.co.uk
@midumail

A local woman has praised the help and support of her family and lecturers after overcoming breast cancer while studying for a career changing degree.

Julie Spratt (pictured) from Knockloughrim, who left school at 16 with just one GCSE, is now doing a Biomedical Science degree at university with a career goal of working in a medical research laboratory as a biomedical scientist.

Although she enjoyed being a student and the interaction with lecturers and the camaraderie of other students, Julie admits that her time at the College wasn't all plain sailing.

"At the start of the second year of my Access course, I was

diagnosed with breast cancer. It was challenging to keep up with my studies while I was going through treatment, but the College gave me something positive to focus on and helped keep my mind busy."

Following the successful completion of the Access Diploma at **Northern Regional College** in 2018, Julie progressed to do a Foundation Degree in Applied and Medical Science at the College in Newtownabbey. She completed the course in 2020, graduating with distinction and this was her stepping stone to becoming an undergraduate at Ulster University last autumn.

Julie explained that after leaving school, she worked in a variety of part-time jobs which she fitted in around the demands of a young family.

"I had always planned to return to third level education to improve my career prospects when my children were grown up and felt the Access



Diploma would help me get a better job."

Julie spent a total of four years as a student at **Northern Regional College** and studied at three different campuses. "I started the Access Diploma in Social Science at Magherafelt campus in 2016 and subsequently transferred to the Ballymena campus to do Science modules in my second year, and this allowed me to progress to do a Foundation Degree in Applied and Medical Science."

She said her four years at the College were a great preparation for going to university.

"As well as a getting a solid foundation in biomedical science and great laboratory experience, I feel more confident about the competency of my IT and research skills and my ability to do presentations."

She continued: "On a personal level, I found that being a student at **Northern Regional College** helped me grow as a person. My self-belief, self-esteem and confidence in my own ability has really developed and this was in no small part due to the ever-present encouragement from the lecturers."

Having sailed through the Access Diploma and then the Foundation Degree with flying colours, Julie said she would "most certainly recommend" both courses.

For further information on courses available and other HE opportunities at **Northern Regional College**, go to www.nrc.ac.uk



Media Source Online Visits 40,807

Assembly Business

...Ireland) 2020 Belfast Metropolitan College Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31 July 2020 Northern Regional College Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2020 Tourism Northern Ireland...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Clarity on exams
came at '11th
hour' for teachers

'Exam body
guidance
needs to be
swift - after
all, this
situation is
not new'

'Irish Sea border just
too much hassle'

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Page 5

From student to tutor - Ian takes new role at **NRC**

Ex-electrician Ian Thomson, who first attended Northern Regional College in 1994, returned to the College to complete a Foundation Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and recently graduated with a distinction grade.

Ian, who worked as an electrician for 20 years before becoming an Electrotechnical Trainer Assessor, decided to enhance his skillset and knowledge by undertaking the Foundation Degree at the College.

"I spent a number of years in my assessor role at a training organisation. I found I really enjoyed spending time with the apprentices and watching them develop.

"Sharing and imparting knowledge of what I have learned over several years is very rewarding," Ian explained.

Following this, he was offered a position as a trainer within the College:

"I jumped at the chance to work at the College. On securing this role, I decided to undertake the Foundation Degree as part of



Ian Thompson

my continual professional development."

Despite juggling his studies alongside work and family life, Ian achieved top marks.

"Completing the Foundation Degree was certainly challenging. There are a number of components including classes and assignments which alongside my work and family life meant I was extremely busy.

"However, the support given by the lecturing team in the engineering department was excellent and provided a great

source of help throughout the qualification," he said.

Ian added: "Looking back, it has been so worthwhile."

Upon the completion of his foundation degree, Ian secured a full-time lecturing post in the College's electrical installation department where it all began some 26 years ago.

"Walking in as a lecturer as meeting some of the staff that had previously taught me was a surreal feeling.

"I am extremely proud of the effort I put in to get to this point and I am really looking forward to my future career as a lecturer."

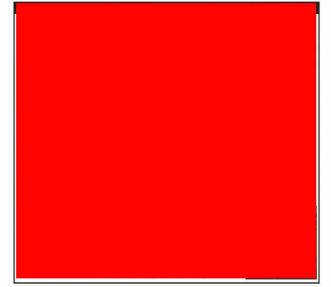
In addition to in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Northern Regional college offers Foundation Degrees in Construction Engineering with Surveying, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, Applied and Medical Science, Sports Science, Coaching and Fitness, Health and Social Care, Early Childhood Studies, Computing and Integrative Counselling.

For further information on these and other HE opportunities at Northern Regional College, go to www.nrc.ac.uk

Media Source Press Page 5

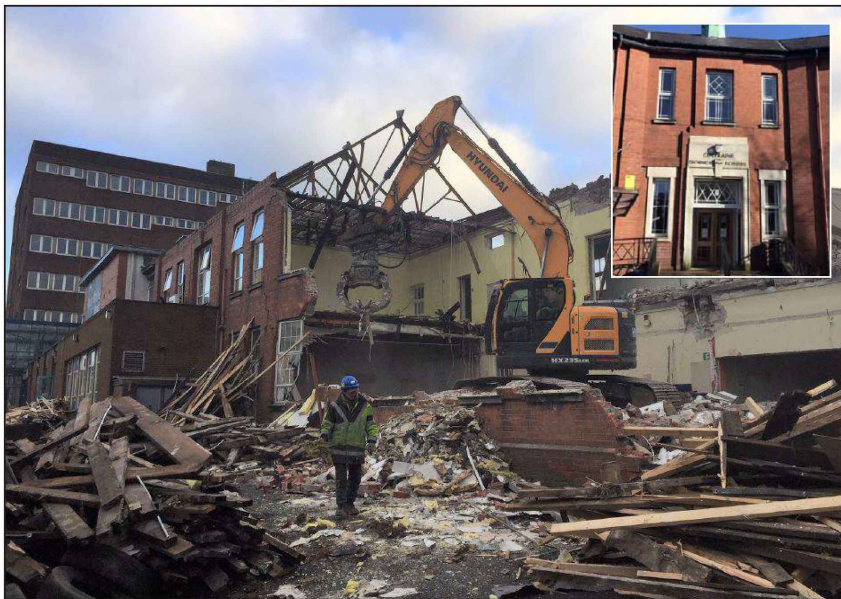
Circulation 13,725

Also published in Coleraine Chronicle



Union Street site cleared to make way for new £40m **NRC** campus

College demolition underway



Above and below right: the demolition team moves in ahead of the **NRC**'s £40m campus redevelopment.

How the new campus will look from Anderson Park.

THE demolition of Coleraine's Northern Regional College got underway in earnest last week, starting with razing of the original Technical School building.

A number of structures on the corner of Union Street and Brook Street are being levelled to make way for a £40m state-of-the-art campus building due to re-open in 2023.

Opened in the 1930s, the original red-brick building, has over the years, been known as Coleraine Technical College, Causeway Institute and most recently **NRC**'s Coleraine Campus.

It was extended in the 1950s and, in 1968, the six-story tower block was added.

Neither the Technical School building or the tower block are listed, however the new campus will incorporate the adjacent St Patrick's Church Hall,

which is protected.

It will be retained and refurbished to become a performing arts studio.

Planning applications for the Coleraine Campus were presented to the Planning Committee of Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council in June 2019 and gained cross-party support and unanimous approval.

An important feature of the design is creation of strong links with the town centre through Anderson Park.

The main entrance will be an open airy 'garden room' which aims to extend the park space into the building.

The landscape design will create an attractive reinvigorated outdoor space accessible to all.

This will not only be a benefit to staff and students but also the whole community creating stronger links

through to the town centre.

The training restaurant and hair and beauty salon will, at set times, be open to the public to provide our students with the opportunity to train in a realistic environment.

The performing arts centre will be an additional resource not only for the college but for the community.

Last month Economy Minister Diane Dodds revealed that 100 construction jobs would be created when work gets underway.

In total the building phase will sustain 300 jobs and provide over 1000 hours of training for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades, she said.

The college successfully relocated over the summer to Beresford Avenue in Coleraine, where it has maintained curriculum delivery at a modified former secondary school building.



December Surge in Covid cases

A SURGE in Covid cases, which saw the borough's infection rate rise higher than anywhere else in NI, resulted in a record weekly death toll at the start of December.

Figures from the Northern Ireland Statistical Research Agency (NISRA) show a total of 16 Covid deaths in the week ending November 20.

Four North Coast visitors said they were "happy to be alive" after a freak wave swept them off the Bar Mouth Pier at Castlerock.

The casualties were injured after falling on rocks but were helped back onto the walkway by a brave passer-by.

Consultant Dr Fergal Dunn explained how the 'Phone First' transformation of Causeway Hospital's emergency department would likely be replicated in hospitals across NI. Though prompted by Covid the overhaul was long overdue, he said.

Would Brexit replace Coronavirus in obstructing overseas tourists wishing to visit Causeway Coast and Glens?

That was the question posed by Mayor Mark Fielding, when he appeared before an influential Stormont Committee.

Alderman Fielding and a senior council official had been asked to contribute to a fact finding exercise on concerns over the end of the EU withdrawal transition period.

The Economy Minister revealed that over 100 new construction jobs will be created when work starts on the £40m rebuild of Coleraine's further education college.

News of the major boost to the town's economy came as Diane Dodds announced the appointment of the lead contractor for the Union Street project. Work has since begun on demolition.

Coleraine's police chief warned that paramilitaries prepared to intimidate and even murder rivals would only be caught with community support.

In a message delivered as Causeway Coast and Glens endured an upsurge in activity linked to loyalist criminal gangs, Superintendent Ian Magee renewed his appeal for information.

The Chronical unravelled the mystery behind the name of a star race horse that intertwined golf and the sport of kings.

Portrush Ted was named after his owner's father, Ted McNeill, son of a club pro at Royal Portrush who himself competed in the 1951 Open Championships.

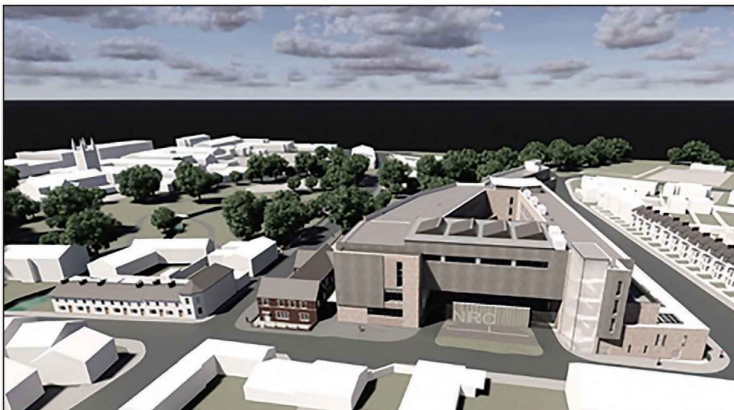
Councillors agreed a £400k rescue package for some of the borough's biggest events whose futures have been cast into doubt by the Covid pandemic.

The Tourism Event Recovery Fund will provide a cash lifeline, whether or not organisers are forced to pull the plug in 2021.

Also at Cloonavin, a committee has agreed to spend £21,000 refurbishing a traditional bathing spot in Portstewart.



Consultant Dr Fergal Dunn pictured in Causeway Hospital's Emergency Department.



An artist's impression of the Northern Regional College's Coleraine Campus.



Chief Superintendent Ian Magee.



Portrush Ted, named after Ted McNeill (inset) clearing a hurdle at Kelso Race Course.



Portnahapple bathing spot in Portstewart, pictured back in its heyday.



irishnews.com | 12/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 459,336

Head of data in Cookstown and examinations assistant in Newtonabbey - GetGot have testing but rewarding roles

...and the ability to build a dynamic team. Apply 2 Examinations Assistant in Newtownabbey **Northern Regional College** is the main provider of higher and further education and training across a diverse...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Coleraine Chronicle | 12/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

College demolition underway

...**NRC's** £40m **campus** redevelopment. Tuesday 12 January 2021 10:35 THE demolition of **Coleraine's Northern Regional College** got underway in earnest last week, starting with razing of the original Technical...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Larne Times | 11/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 25,159

Also published in Carrick Times

Karen is top of the class atNR College



...studies. She said: "I became interested in studying counselling and began researching courses. **Northern Regional College**'s offering gave a clear progression of study which was appealing to me. I began...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



News Letter | 08/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	188,369
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Also published in [Ballymoney Moyle Times](#) [+ 1 more]

Mum tells of how local college opened doors for her

...familiar with much of the terminology, so I was well able to cope with the workload," Joanne said. www.nrc.ac.uk * A message from the Editor: Thank you for reading this story on our website. While I have...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Mid-Ulster Mail | 07/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	11,588
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NRC staff praised as former student commences Biomedical Science degree

...Science at the **NRC campus** in **Newtownabbey** following the successful completion of an Access Diploma at **Northern Regional College** in 2018. She completed the course in 2020, graduating with distinction and this...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Media Source	Press	Page	20
Circulation	13,710		

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel students

Travel and Tourism students at Northern Regional College were inspired - and more than a little bit jealous - to hear firsthand what it's like to work with Virgin Atlantic Airways.

Barry Sheils, an on-board manager with the prestigious airline, spoke to Level 2 and 3 Travel and Tourism students at the College's Coleraine and Magherafelt campuses via Zoom.

He told them how, after he completed his Level 3 course, he'd flown with short-haul low-cost carriers for several years before progressing to a cabin crew position with

Virgin and then landing his dream job as an on-board manager with the airline.

"My career has allowed me to see the world and no two days at work are every the same," he said.

"The one thing that never changes though is that we must always provide the best possible customer service."

He assured the students that although delivering exemplary customer service while operating across different time zones, several miles up in the air and a long way from land can be demanding, it is also very rewarding.

Barry explained that an important aspect of his role as on-board manager, which is the most senior cabin crew member on any flight, is having to deal with just about any kind of emergency that could happen on board.

"It could be just about anything, from a medical crisis to coping with technology glitches and handling difficult passengers. It's all in a day's work," he explained. Tourism lecturer Vivienne Baldwin said Barry's talk was most professional and truly inspirational.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 07/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148

FOUNDATION DEGREE AT NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE STEPPINGSTONE TO UNIVERSITY

Studying at **Northern Regional College** opened doors for a young Portstewart mother of two, who is now doing a degree in Architectural Technology at Ulster University. Joanne Caskey, mum to Bobby (10) and...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 06/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148

The student becomes the master: local electrician graduates to become lecturer

Ex-electrician Ian Thomson, who first attended **Northern Regional College** in 1994, returned to the College to complete a Foundation Degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and recently graduated...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 06/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148

Northern Regional College Supports Transformational Journey to New Career Path

...laboratory as a biomedical scientist. Following the successful completion of an Access Diploma at Northern Regional College in 2018, Julie progressed to do a Foundation Degree in Applied and Medical Science...

CONTINUE READING



MSN UK | 04/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 73,000,000

Also published in Ballymoney Moyle Times [+ 2 more]

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel students

...can read more than five articles, see fewer ads, enjoy faster load times, and get access to exclusive newsletters and content. Visit <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/subscriptions> now to sign up. Thank you

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News Letter | 04/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 188,369

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel students

...can read more than five articles, see fewer ads, enjoy faster load times, and get access to exclusive newsletters and content. Visit <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/subscriptions> now to sign up. Thank you

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Department for the Economy NI | 22/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 10,930

Dodds announces public appointment extensions

...John McGrillen, have been further extended for six months from 1 February 2021 to 31 July 2021. **Northern Regional College** The tenures of two GB members, Isobel Allison and Gillian McConnell, have been...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Causeway Chamber of Commerce | 21/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

New Vice Principal appointed at Northern Regional College

Northern Regional College has appointed Christine Brown as the new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning. With an established career of over 20 years in the further education sector, Christine, who...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Antrim Guardian | 15/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

Diane is outstanding in her own field(s)!



...the well-known late historian and character Alex Blair. She did a diploma in Business Studies at Coleraine Tech, before going on to study accountancy at the University of Ulster in Jordanstown. She met...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 14/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	15,148
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Public appointment opportunity at Northern Regional College

...for the Economy has launched a public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for Northern Regional College (NRC). Economy Minister Diane Dodds said: "Developing the skills of our people..."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Department for the Economy NI | 14/01/2021

Media Source	Online	Visits	10,930
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Public appointment opportunity within further education sector

...for the Economy has launched a public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for Northern Regional College (NRC). Public appointment competition to recruit a governing body Chair for ...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press Page 15
 Circulation 13,725

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Consultant Dr Fergal Dunn pictured in Causeway Hospital's Emergency Department.



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Chief Superintendent Ian Magee.



Portrush Ted, named after Ted McNeill (inset) clearing a hurdle at Kelso Race Course.



Portnahapple bathing spot in Portstewart, pictured back in its heyday.



irishnews.com | 12/01/2021

Media Source

Online

Visits

459,336

Head of data in Cookstown and examinations assistant in Newtonabbey - GetGot have testing but rewarding roles

...and the ability to build a dynamic team. Apply 2 Examinations Assistant in Newtownabbey **Northern Regional College** is the main provider of higher and further education and training across a diverse...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Vocational and Essential Skills exams cancelled

Essential Skills and vocational examinations for the remainder of this academic year have been cancelled – the decision announced by Economy Minister Diane Dodds last week.

In making her decision, the Minister said the disruption to learning meant that it was neither sustainable nor fair to learners or to providers to continue with exams.

“The pandemic continues to disrupt every aspect of our lives and I know how unsettling a time this has been for learners, their families and local providers who deliver vocational qualifications and **Essential Skills**,” said Mrs Dodds.

“I am acutely aware of the increasing disruption to teaching and learning and despite the best efforts of our local providers and learners, this is no longer sustainable nor fair to learners.

“Therefore, I want to provide clarity and certainty and have taken the decision to cancel all external vocational exams for the remainder of this year, including **Essential Skills** and BTecs and all other vocational exams scheduled for February /

March, and the scheduled summer exam series.”

The Minister has instructed CCEA Regulation to ensure that awarding organisations put in place suitable alternative awarding arrangements that are reflective of this year’s particular circumstances.

“I wish to assure learners that the awards you will receive this year will have the same standards and recognition as any other year and will carry the same degree of portability as you consider progression pathways,” she said.

“There are a range of qualifications that demonstrate occupational competency, such as licence to practice, and I have requested that suitable assessment adaptations are put in place, in a similar manner to last year. Where this is not possible, assessments may need to be delayed given public health and safety considerations.”

In relation to **Essential Skills**, the Minister said that external exams will also be cancelled and replaced with a teacher judgement approach, based upon suitable evidence. There will be a short transition period where **Essential Skills** on-demand exams will still be available up to the end of February 2021, where they can be taken safely in line with PHA guidance, until the new arrangements are in place.”

Media Source	Press	Page	11
Circulation	32,538		
Also published in	Northwest Telegraph		

Vocational examinations cancelled

ESSENTIAL Skills and vocational examinations have been cancelled for this year, the Economy Minister has confirmed. Diane Dodds said the disruption to learning meant that it was neither sustainable nor fair to learners or to providers to continue with exams.

"I am acutely aware of the increasing disruption to teaching and learning," she said.

"I want to provide clarity and certainty and have taken the decision to cancel all external vocational exams for the remainder of this year, including Essential Skills and BTecs and all other vocational exams scheduled for February and March, and the scheduled summer exam series."

Mrs Dodds said she expected clarity on the alternative arrangements to be available by the end of February.

Alliance MLA Stewart Dickson said appropriate support for students must now be the priority.

"It is vital definite contingency plans are put in place as swiftly as possible," he said.

CONTINUE READING



George Graham, the 'blow-in' who is now 'part of the fabric' in his adopted town!

...1947 and went to Rainey Endowed school in Magherafelt before taking up an OND in Engineering at Ballymena 'Tech'. "I didn't enjoy school much," he told the Guardian a few years back. "I remember my classmates..."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ballymena Daily | 21/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 26,200
Also published in Northern Regional College

Chris scoops top award at Northern Regional College in Ballymena

...Computing, and Integrative Counselling. For further information on Foundation Degree programmes and other full time and part time courses at the College, visit www.nrc.ac.uk to explore the range of courses.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source	Press	Page	20
Circulation	13,710		

Mum tells of how local college opened doors for her

Studying at Northern Regional College opened doors for a young Portstewart mother of two, who is now doing a degree in Architectural Technology at Ulster University.

Joanne Caskey - mum to Bobby (10) and Bella (5) - was awarded a Foundation Degree with Distinction in Construction with Surveying at the college's Higher Education graduations, paving the way for her to go to university.

Joanne said that even as a young child she was always interested in the design and construction of buildings, an interest she attributes to her father.

After leaving school, Joanne successfully completed a Level 3 Diploma in Construction at the college in Coleraine, but her longterm career plans were put on hold while she thought of her next move.

She worked in Asda whilst focusing on her young family but was drawn back to her original plan to work in the construction sector.

"Ten years after I completed my Diploma, I decided to go back to the college to do a Foundation Degree," Joanne explained.

"It's a roundabout route but it's working for me and I'm really enjoying it."

As part of the Foundation Degree, she secured a placement with multi-disciplinary architectural consultancy firm, GM Design Associates in Coleraine.

"The work I did at college and then the work placement with GM Design were great preparation for university and, because I was already familiar with much of the terminology, so I was well able to cope with the workload," Joanne said.

Joanne Caskey

[CONTINUE READING](#)



News Letter | 08/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 188,369

Also published in Ballymoney Moyle Times [+ 1 more]

Mum tells of how local college opened doors for her

...familiar with much of the terminology, so I was well able to cope with the workload," Joanne said. www.nrc.ac.uk * A message from the Editor: Thank you for reading this story on our website. While I have...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 07/01/2021

Media Source Online Visits 15,148

FOUNDATION DEGREE AT NORTHERN REGIONAL COLLEGE STEPPINGSTONE TO UNIVERSITY

Studying at [Northern Regional College](#) opened doors for a young Portstewart mother of two, who is now doing a degree in Architectural Technology at Ulster University. Joanne Caskey, mum to Bobby (10) and...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

McCUE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE WITH APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT DRIVE

CARRICKFERGUS-based manufacturer, McCue, has partnered with two of Northern Ireland's higher education facilities to recruit a number of apprentice joiners.

The company, which specialises in project management, fit-out and bespoke joinery, is taking on five apprentice joiners from Northern Regional College and Belfast

Metropolitan College for the next academic year, in a move that will help the company retain its skillset in the future.

The apprenticeship programme will see the five apprentices undertake on-the-job training with the highly-skilled craftsmen at McCue, combined with occasional study that will culminate with a recognised qualification. They will learn how to create, craft and construct high-quality joinery and intricate designs

through time-aged techniques, which McCue has become renowned for.

Speaking about the apprenticeship programme, McCue's Managing Director, Gary Purdy, who began his career as an apprentice at the company, said, "Since I joined McCue as an apprentice back in 1985, many things have changed, however the core skills that our apprentices learn remain the same. It is fundamental for us as a business to develop the skills of our young people, who become an

integral part of our workforce and can add real value.

"My own personal experience as an apprentice with McCue has certainly shaped my career path, allowed me to progress throughout the company and contributed to my current role. The apprenticeship programme is a great opportunity for young people to commence their careers and we look forward to developing the young people and seeing their progression in the months and indeed, the years ahead."

Northern Regional College says Higher Level Apprenticeships a 'win-win for employees and employers

Published in: Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		41,348	34.45 €

Celebrity chef gives NRC students some food for thought...

Published in: Ballymoney Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		1,724.78 €

Chris scoops top award at Northern Regional College in Ballymena

Published in: Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		41,348	34.45 €

Reaching out across the world

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Ballymoney Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
51,687	41,175		4,333.99 €

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel and Tourism students

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Ballymoney Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
68,916	54,900		3,620.38 €

WELL DONE OUR PIERCE

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Ballymoney Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
68,916	54,900		2,582.02 €

Northern Regional College Student Graduates and Sets Up Own Business

Published in: Ballymena Daily

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		41,348	34.45 €

College demolition underway

Published in: Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		3,121.62 €

Karen is top of the class atNR College

Published in: Carrick Times

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		94,324	78.61 €

Mum tells of how local college opened doors for her

Published in: Ballymoney Moyle Times, Coleraine Times

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		286,452	238.7 €

Inspirational talk for NRC Travel students

Published in: Ballymoney Moyle Times, Coleraine Times, Mid-Ulster Mail

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		73,109,671	60,924.72 €

Vocational examinations cancelled

Published in: Northwest Telegraph

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
63,328	35,594		1,131.82 €

Chris scoops top award at Northern Regional College in Ballymena

Published in: Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		41,348	34.45 €

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		286,452	238.7 €