

met connect

WINTER 2014



Where Education and Industry Meet

Belfast Met host innovative Connected Care Eco-System Event



Mark Ennis, Invest NI, Karen McCann, Belfast Met, Bryan Keating, MATRIX and Paul McCormack, Belfast Met. *pg.1*

In this Issue:



InnovateUs

DM Innovations
skill enhancement
in Bluetooth Low
Energy technology

pg.2



Composites Training

Belfast Met develop
unique composites
course

pg.3



Business Launchpad Awards

Student finalists present
their business ideas to
industry panel

pg.3

Belfast Met delighted to be first FE College to host ECO-System Event



Event dignitaries with Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive, Belfast Met.

As a member of ECH Alliance, Belfast Met was delighted to host the Northern Ireland Connected Health Ecosystem Meeting on 6th December, chaired by Dr Brian O'Connor at e3. This is the first time a further education college has hosted such an event and was a direct result of Belfast Met's Connected – Care initiative funded by the HE/FE DEL Funded Connected Programme.

The theme of the event was 'Transforming your Care at Home' with the focus on workforce development, innovation in health care and data analytics in the life and health sciences.

The keynote presentations were delivered by the CEO of Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Colm Donaghy and Dr Malcolm Fisk, Co-Director of the Age Research Centre, Coventry University, who discussed the emerging implications of workforce and skill development.

The event also showcased SMEs working on innovative solutions to help with the management of long term conditions and community organisations outlining innovative solutions for elderly care.

“This is a great opportunity to showcase the innovative work we are doing in Belfast Met in the Health and Social Care arena. Our relationship with the ECH-Alliance has the potential to open doors to collaborative projects, both cross border and European wide.”

Karen McCann, Project Manager in Connected Care, Belfast Met.



Connected
Bringing knowledge to business

International Partnerships



Assistant Chief Executive Justin Edwards presenting Key Note Speech in China.

Belfast Met's Assistant Chief Executive, Justin Edwards, was honoured to be invited to deliver a key note speech to the Sino UK International Forum on Higher Education at the China Annual Conference for International Education in Beijing in November.

Justin provided the attendees with a new perspective on educational practices in Northern Ireland and outlined how the College works with regional government bodies to provide the highest quality of education to students. In addition, Justin participated in a panel discussion focusing on Student-Centred Internationalised Development.

Interested in availing of



INNOVATEUS

Let's Do Business

30hrs
technical
mentoring?



Department for
Employment
and Learning

The InnovateUS Programme is supported by Department
for Employment and Learning www.innovateus.co.uk

The InnovateUS Programme provides **fully funded** Mentoring (up to value of £3,000) to companies with less than 50 Employees across the following six areas:

Advanced Engineering,
Manufacturing &
Advanced Materials

Creative & Digital Media

Food, Drink & Tourism

ICT

Life & Health
Sciences

Renewable Energy
& Sustainable
Technologies

Contact nkilmartin@belfastmet.ac.uk to assess if you are eligible for programme support.

InnovateUs results in new product development capabilities for DM Innovations

DM Innovations, an innovative product development company in Belfast, utilised the opportunity for 30 hours fully funded, technical mentoring through the InnovateUs programme to upskill its staff in mobile app software development.

The company has a strong background in developing prototypes and hardware solutions but felt the software skills in house were underdeveloped and left the company unable to provide clients with an overall product solution. DM Innovations specifically required skill enhancement in the development of mobile software that can track Bluetooth Low Energy Tags.

The InnovateUs project provided the perfect opportunity to fill this gap, through the expertise of Brian Douglas. Brian teaches and mentors on a number of innovative programmes such as the Deloitte Cloud Academy and has vast experience in app development, having set up his own company.

Brian delivered a number of "How To" tutorials to DM Innovations on the software technology of iOS6 and the newly released iOS7, how to build a wire framework for app development, the functionality of Bluetooth Low Energy Tags with mobile software and a workshop on how to build Bluetooth Low Energy related apps.

The project provided great results for DM Innovations as they have been able to develop a skeleton application which can be expanded and moulded into a fully functional iPhone app, bringing the development in-house and providing significant cost savings.



Brian Douglas, Belfast Met, Michael Little, DM Innovations, Nuala Kilmartin, Belfast Met and Darren Fenton, DM Innovations.

businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk



www.belfastmet.ac.uk



028 3026 5058



@e3_belfastmet



Students get ready for lift off with Business Launchpad success



Business Launchpad winners; Adam Campbell, Nicola McLaughlin and Paul Campbell.

Business Launchpad, funded by Invest NI, enabled students enrolled on a full-time or part-time course at Belfast Met or North West Regional College to develop their business ideas and provide stepping stones for setting up a business. Throughout the programme, students explored potential business ideas, held interactive workshops with local entrepreneurs, availed of tailored guidance and mentoring and wrote a business plan.

Seven students from over 170 reached the final stage of the programme and pitched their business idea

to a panel of four business advisors consisting of Mary McCall, Founder and Managing Director of TreatTicket.com, Jacqui O'Doherty, Investment Executive at eSynergy, Dr. Paul Beaney, Project Manager at VITAL, and Frankie McCourt, Regional Economic Development at Invest NI.

Belfast Met student, Paul Campbell was one of three entrepreneurial students to win the Dragon's Den style competition final for his music production business idea. Paul, who is currently studying an HND in Computing Systems, pitched his winning idea to offer online electronic dance music production to an established international client base located in 115 countries. Paul's company 'Techprotorial' will launch in 2014.

Paul Campbell, Belfast Met student and winner of Business Launchpad:

“ I am delighted to have won the live pitch at Belfast Met as it is a great way to top off a fantastic few months.

Business Launchpad really appealed to me because it gave me relevant and real experience in progressing a business idea from conception to launch.”

Composites course developed for Industry

An Introduction to Composites Manufacturing course, supported by the HE/FE DEL Funded Connected programme, was held on 15th November in the e3 Building's Composite Workshop with representatives from Queen's University, Invest NI and South Eastern Regional College attended to find out more about wet lay-up and pre-preg laminating methods.

Composite materials are considered to have significant potential in replacing traditional engineering materials such as metals and plastics across a wide range of industries. Their use in aerospace, marine, construction and industrial goods has grown considerably in recent years and this expansion is set to continue. However, designing and manufacturing products in composites requires an alternative approach to traditional materials and therefore can be difficult to do. Courses of this nature help demonstrate practical manufacturing challenges when working with composites so that designers, tutors and researchers can convey techniques to others in a more efficient manner.



Introduction to Composites Course Participants

Findhan Strain, Belfast Met, has been working on the development of a full National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations (PEO) Certificate. This is the first of its kind in the region and is a very desirable qualification for employment in the local aerospace industry. Composites manufacturing is highly dependent on the skill of the people making the product and therefore the successful completion of an NVQ unit represents a considerable step towards achieving high quality standards.

Belfast Met develop bespoke Chef Development programme for Hastings

Belfast Met has engaged with Hastings Hotel Group on the development and facilitation of a core cooking skills programme. This programme will develop and fine tune advanced cooking skills in a range of chefs, from Commis to Sous Chef. It is also designed to develop catering resource management and leadership skills.

This programme will be delivered through a blended learning method, facilitating progression through a uniquely designed set of workshops to enable the development of key job requirements such as food sourcing and preparation, presentation of core menu development and consistently high quality delivery.

The programme will include visit to suppliers to allow chefs to understand how a product is reared/created before delivery to each hotel, kitchen management such as hygiene, menu planning, seasoning and purchasing, culinary skills and food auditing to ensure consistency and standardisation across menus and locations of hotels within the Hastings Group.



Mark Brotherston, Belfast Met with Howard Hastings, Hastings Group and Thomas Turley, Belfast Met.

Futureproofing Your Brand



John Elliott, Stuart Hughes, Barbara Hughes, Oscar Wolley and Ryan Brotherston

Belfast Metropolitan College recently hosted a Met Connect event in e3 on the Springvale Campus, entitled 'Futureproof Your Brand'. Aimed at food, drink and hospitality businesses, the event showcased the entrepreneurial journey and resultant successes of local companies including Clements Coffee, Suki Tea, Hughes Craft Distillery and Boutique Coco.

Speakers at the event were Clements Coffee founder, John Elliott, Suki Tea founder Oscar Wolley, Hughes Craft Distillery's Barbara Hughes and Ryan Brotherston from Boutique Coco. They emphasised to the many local companies in attendance the importance of making time to get the brand right, building on successes, the value of collaboration and nurturing the support of early adopters.

The question and answer session that followed the presentation provided an excellent platform for attending companies to get invaluable advice from the speakers.

Deloitte Analytics Training Academy Awards

Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, hosted an awards ceremony for graduates from the Deloitte Analytics Training Academy at the Long Gallery at Parliament Buildings.

The innovative initiative, delivered at Belfast Met involved a nine week intensive training programme targeted at graduates, developed jointly by DEL, Deloitte and Belfast Metropolitan College. It has trained 17 graduates with the skills and accredited qualifications identified by Deloitte for new job opportunities in their Belfast office.

Garry Carpenter, Operations Manager at Deloitte Analytics, Belfast, said: **“The Academy has more than exceeded our expectations in regards to the quality of the programme and the calibre of the candidates taking part. It has been a hugely positive experience and Deloitte are very proud to have been associated with the project.”**



Minister Farry, Belfast Met Principal and Chief Executive Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Deloitte's Garry Carpenter and Deloitte DATA student Julie Hanson.

e3 Expertise and Excellence

Digital Media

About Aidan

Aidan Browne is Curriculum Development Manager for Digital Media at Belfast Metropolitan College. Having worked in the curriculum, teaching students in Performing Arts and Media Studies, Aidan is keen to develop industry relevant programmes that will provide both students and business with the right skills for growth.



Aidan was instrumental in gaining the funding for the Kainos Code Camp which ran in e3 in July 2013, providing the opportunity for 17-19 year olds to take part in a two week crash course in mobile app creation with mentoring from industry experts.

In addition, Aidan is project coordinator for the newly established Belfast Met Cloud Academy. The Cloud Academy aims to provide graduates with the skills and experience required to take up exciting new ICT opportunities in Cloud computing with training designed and delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College.

Targeting degree or equivalent graduates from any discipline, the Academy offers an intensive 21 week training programme, which includes a six week work placement, to 14 successful applicants. Participants will gain an industry recognised qualification and a potential offer of employment.

About the Facilities

Digital Media, ICT and Creative Industries have been identified as essential areas for the growth and rebalancing of the Northern Ireland economy. The e3 building was developed to promote employability, economic development and enterprise in key sector areas. As a result, the facilities available to businesses and our students are state of the art and ready to meet the need from this evolving market.

Equipment available includes;

- a digital editing suite
- state-of-the-art TV studios with an eighty seat audience capacity
- a radio production studio
- pre and post production suites
- computer training rooms
- specialist equipment including a large green screen

In addition the College offers businesses a range of training programmes in emerging technologies such as virtualisation, cloud computing, Android and Apple IOS development and are qualified trainers in a range of vendor qualifications such as Microsoft and Comp TIA.



Interested in developing opportunities for your business?

Belfast Met offer businesses the opportunity to become involved in student development through a number of services that can help you business and future work force grow.

- Student Placements and Internships
- Student Project Opportunities
- Exhibition at College Careers Fairs
- Free Job Advertisements
- Careers talks to student groups
- Company Presentations
- Hosting visits to your premises

If you would be interested in any of these services, please contact the Student Placement Team on tel: 028 9026 5235



Belfast Met developing Wind Installation Apprenticeship

Through partnership, Belfast Met and B9 Energy have developed innovative solutions for the accreditation of skills in the wind sector, working closely with the National Skills Academy for Power, to provide e-learning and competence assessment methodologies. The partnership with B9 Energy is recognised as adding value to the sector by Siemens Wind Power and Belfast Met will begin working on their Wind Installation and Commissioning Apprenticeship Programme.

Chris Corken, Andrew McNevison and Conor Sheehan recently are working with Siemens training managers at the Renewable Training Centre in Newcastle to begin the process of collaborating on this exciting project.



Conor Sheehan, B9 Energy with Chris Corken and Andrew McNevison, Belfast Met

The centre includes a fully functional 3.6MW nacelle to train operatives and Belfast Met will develop the relationship to provide opportunities with our partners in the Energy Skills Training Network.

Belfast Met is supporting B9 Energy in the development of an offshore wind farm with the Danish industry leaders DONG Energy, through the First Flight Wind consortium. DONG Energy is currently operating from Belfast Harbour to complete the West of Duddon Sands offshore wind farm, which consists of 108 wind turbines being installed by Dutch company Bosaklis and wind power giants Siemens.

Student Placements – Belfast Harbour



Belfast Met students, Philip Elwood and Sorcha Millen at Belfast Harbour

Belfast Met offers a range of services and opportunities to help you raise your organisation's profile and promote work experience and job vacancies to our students. With over 1,500 students available for placement or work experience each year, we have built up an excellent track record in supporting employers in all sectors.

Opportunities for student placements form a vital element of the capacity building strategy as Belfast Met endeavour to provide a route to employment for students. Two students from Belfast Met's Building

Services and Renewable Energies degree course, Sorcha Millen and Philip Elwood, took part in a summer placement with Belfast Harbour where they gained a breadth of knowledge on the foundation and installation of wind turbines and completed a number of essential training courses such as working at height and confined spaces.

Both Sorcha and Philip felt that this placement opened career opportunities and identified new pathways for future education to achieve a career in the renewable energy sector.

Meet at the Met



Belfast Met is a multi-campus College offering a range of venues across the city.

The Community Learning Centre, at Belfast Metropolitan College's Springvale Campus is an award winning building providing conference facilities and office space to businesses, community groups and the public sector.

A neutral venue and an inspirational setting for any event, the centre is a location for inter-community development work. It is a base for a number of educational providers to deliver innovative programmes throughout Belfast.

Facilities at the Community Learning Centre:

- Fully accessible on all floors
- Ample free car parking spaces
- A relaxing coffee-bar area
- Information Technology suites
- Meeting and conference rooms
- Open-plan exhibition areas
- A wide range of audio-visual equipment
- Landscaped grounds

Contact our friendly professional team for assistance with the event planning process on tel: **028 9026 5046** or email: **meet@belfastmet.ac.uk**

Business Incubation – Linkubator

Linkubator is a niche consulting and training company based in the e3 building. The company assist local SMEs to build better businesses through high-calibre, ILM accredited training programmes such as Leadership, Risk Management, Export, Driving Performance and Negotiation.

Linkubator moved to the e3 building in February 2013. Daniel Orr, General Manager outlined why the company chose e3, **“We are delighted to base our business in e3. The venue works well for us as, like the College, we are involved in the business of continuous learning for life and work.”**

The incubation suit at e3 is a unique, modern hub promoting innovation and start up business. Companies can utilise student projects and placements, speak to our innovation experts about business funding opportunities and attend College industry events. Daniel Orr was a speaker at one such industry event at which he highlighted the importance of innovation for a business, **“The event was a great platform for Linkubator and showcased the opportunities for collaboration and support from the College.”**



**Our challenge to industry:
How can we help you to be more
innovative?
Give us a call today.**



Download our
business pack
today.