



College /Awards & Success Stories 2025/**26**

Centre for
Marketing & Communications



Celebrating Success Awards 2026

The College's Celebrating Success FE Awards were held on 25 June 2026 in our Titanic Quarter campus.

Academic & Continuing Education

Student of the Year Award Level 1	Yusuf Imanow
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Bhagya Rajesh
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Aoife Kyla Quinn
Spirit of the Met Award Entry Level	Medhane Weldegabir
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Ikram Aded
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Tiarnán Thompson
Digital by Design Award	Karmela Tubera

Belfast Business School

Student of the Year Award Level 3	Ciara Lindsay
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Michelle Chapman
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Katie McNicholl
Digital by Design Award	Harry Power

Creative & Digital Industries

Student of the Year Award Level 2	Daniel Coleman
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Leo Shields
Digital by Design Award	Oliver McMullan

Huge congratulations to the students and staff at Belfast Met for their many outstanding award wins and successes throughout the 2025/2026 academic year.

Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Student of the Year Award Entry Level	Harry Costello
Student of the Year Award Level 1	Eoin Connolly
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Roxy Glenn
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Amy Black
Spirit of the Met Award Entry Level	Joshua McCann
Spirit of the Met Award Level 1	Daryl Kelly
Spirit of the Met Award Level 2	Megan Walsh
Spirit of the Met Award Level 3	Dylan Wallace
Digital by Design Award	Karol Chmielewski

Science, Engineering & Construction

Student of the Year Award Level 2	Leia Annett
Student of the Year Award Level 2	Lewis Armstrong
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Xander Rainey
Student of the Year Award Level 3	Rose Coomber

Student Support

Career-Ready Student of the Year Award	Anna Strain
Student Endeavour Award	Conor Byrne
Student Endeavour Award	Izzy McManus
Student Volunteer of the Year Award	Brandon Connolly



FE Sector Awards 2026

Belfast Met students and staff were celebrated at the Further Education Excellence Awards held in Cookstown on Thursday 4 June.

Lifetime Achievement Winners (Staff)

Tere McBurney	Curriculum Area Manager for ESOL & Modern Languages. Tere has worked at the College for over 20 years.
George Elwood	Student Support Assistant

Congratulations to both Tere and George for their exceptional contributions to FE throughout their careers.

FE Excellence in Higher Education (Student)

Alix McCone: Alix was recognised for her remarkable educational journey that saw her progress from BTEC Level 3 study to achieving a First-Class Honours degree in Fashion Production and Business.

School of Academic & Continuing Education

Huge congratulations to ESOL lecturer **Anna Maria Arwanitaki** winner of the 'Educator Award' at the **Ascentis** 50th Anniversary Lifetime Learning Awards. The awards recognise individuals and teams who have gone above and beyond to inspire and empower learners.

After earning a **Gold Award** in the **UK Senior Maths Challenge**, student **Luke Noble** was invited to take part in the prestigious **Senior Kangaroo**, and he struck Gold again. Kangaroo invitations are reserved for top performing students from across the UK.

Belfast Business School

Belfast Met student **Tyler Murray** was crowned NI Travel Student of the Year at the **Northern Ireland Travel & Tourism Awards**.

Students **Kadie Griffiths**, Jamie McShane and Michael Coles have been selected to take part in the **Study USA** programme.

A huge congratulations to student **Corey Campbell**, who represented Belfast Met in the **UK CombiGuru Challenge**. Competing against 57 other young chefs from catering colleges across the UK, Corey one named as one of six winners at a live 3-hour cook-off against students from across the UK.

OCN Learner Endeavour Awards:

Hairdressing Traineeship students **Jo-Ann Lawler** and **Molly McCormack** were both shortlisted in the Trainee/Apprenticeship Learner of the Year category of the 2026 awards, with Molly being awarded Highly Commended at the June awards.

School of Creative & Digital Industries

RTS (Royal Television Society) NI Student Awards: Belfast Met students **Jude Carne** (Writer/Director); **Conor McCartney** (Producer), **Michael Magowan** (First Assistant Director) and **Rachel McNally** (Cinematographer) picked up the RTS NI Craft - Production Award for their drama *Blurred*.

Congratulations to 2025 graduates **Conor Conway**, **Jamie Cross** and **Christopher Adams** who received on-screen credits as VFX Artists on the Netflix series *How to Get to Heaven from Belfast*. The students undertook the work while completing their final-year industry placement with Enter Yes.

Anna George, graduate of **BSc (Hons) Fashion Production and Business** has not only been selected to showcase her designs at **Ireland Fashion Week 2026** but she has also secured a role as Technical & Design Coordinator with the **Cooneen Group**.

School of Health, Wellbeing & Inclusion

Belfast Met's Centre for Supported Learning returned victorious after a trip to Liverpool for a friendly fixture against Liverpool Foundation Inclusion Team.

Belfast Met boxers delivered incredible results at the **Irish Third Level Boxing Championships** in Dublin, bringing home an outstanding haul of medals.

Students were decorated across all divisions, with standout first round knock-out wins from **Finley Okoro** and **Logan Smyth**, and superb Elite Senior performances from **Sean Grey (Gold)** and **Phillip Rooney (Silver)**.

Boxing Academy Coach **Martin Lindsay** was crowned **Belfast Senior Sports Coach of the Year** at the **GolfNow Belfast Sports Awards**. This award recognises Martin's outstanding contribution to sporting achievement and increasing participation in sport across Belfast.

Former Belfast Met Boxing Academy student **Jordan Smith** was awarded **Pathway to Education through Sport Award** at the same event. A well-deserved double win for the College's Boxing Academy.

JP McManus All Ireland Scholarship Award:

We are absolutely delighted to celebrate **Katie McClean**, who has been awarded a **JP McManus All Ireland Scholarship** – a truly prestigious and well deserved achievement.

Katie's exceptional A* academic achievement in the **Level 3 Extended Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development** is a testament to her dedication, talent, and determination.

OCN Learner Endeavour Awards: Huge congratulations to **Callum Carville** from the **Centre for Supported Learning** in being awarded Highly Commended in the Health & Wellbeing Learner of the Year category.

School of Science, Engineering & Construction

Congratulations to the three Belfast Met students recognised at the **WorldSkills UK National Finals 2025** held in November.

- **Conal Daly** scooped a Silver medal in the Industrial Electronics category.
- **Jack Fenton** was awarded the Bronze medal in Plumbing.
- **Ewan Forsythe** was honored as Highly Commended in the Electrical Installation category.

Belfast Met student and NUGENT apprentice **Ewan Forsythe** has had an outstanding year. Alongside his Highly Commended accolade at the WorldSkills UK finals, he was:

- Named runner-up in the **ECA Edmundson Apprentice of the Year awards for 2025**.
- Placed in the Top 8 finalists in the **Skillelectric UK Final 2025** held in November 2025. This is a 2.5 day intensive competition testing top electrical apprentices from across the UK.

Belfast Met student team **Jack Bowman** and **Ryan Walker** walked away as winners in the **NI Laboratory Skills - local skills** competition, endorsed by **WorldSkills UK**. The competition tested critical thinking, health and safety, attention to detail, teamwork, problem solving and technical skills.

Super Trowel 2026 Irish Regional Heat:

Congratulations to **Arran Barr – Regional Junior Champion, Super Trowel 2026**. Arran's lecturer Daniel Wilson who performed the role of hod-carrier for Arran's winning heat.

SkillBuild - Regional Qualifier 2026

Bricklaying student **Conor Lawell** scooped second place in the SkillBuild Regional Qualifier held on 19th May 2026.

Charlie McMaster achieved the leading score in the Fire and Security section with **Ryan Cunningham** being awarded runner-up.

Other runner-ups were **Bartosz Liczberski** (Security Systems), **Kyle Hewitt** (Alarms Electrical) and **Shea Dorrian** (Electrical), while **Reece Moore** was awarded third place in Alarms.

In May, the **Belfast Met Boxing Academy** returned from the prestigious **Portimão Box Cup** in Portugal with an impressive medal haul, including two gold medals and two bronze.

- **Lee Largey Snoddon** – Gold Medal
- **Finley Okoro** – Gold Medal
- **Logan Smyth** – Bronze Medal
- **James Rooney** – Bronze Medal

Team members **Owen Wasnidge** and **Jak McLaughlin** represented Belfast Met with distinction.



College Awards

Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Awards 2026

Winner: Small to Medium Enterprise of the Year with Training Provider

Sleepy Hollow Group in partnership with Belfast Met.

Winner: Public Sector Employer of the Year with Training Provider

PSNI in partnership with Belfast Met.

In addition, apprentice **Harry McClements** was announced as a finalist in the **Public Sector Apprentice of the Year category**. Harry is employed by the Department for Infrastructure – TRAM (Transport Roads Asset Management).

Belfast Chamber of Commerce Awards

The College is delighted to have won the **Digital & Creative Excellence Award** at the 2025 **Belfast Chamber Business Awards**. This achievement recognises and celebrates the innovation and outstanding work of the **Centre for Digital Innovation and Technology (CDIT)** – a joint initiative between Belfast Met, Queen's University and Stranmillis University College, delivered as part of the Belfast Region City Deal.

CyberFirst NI was shortlisted in the **Social Value category**. This recognises organisations that make a positive impact on society through economic, social, or environmental contributions – a testament to the College's ongoing commitment to delivering real and lasting change in the community.

