

SKILLBUILD UK JUDGE'S PROFILE - COLIN MCCAUGHEY

LEAD JUDGE FOR PLASTERING AND PLASTERING &
DRYWALL SYSTEMS FOR SKILLBUILD UK

How did you start your career?

I served my time as a plasterer with McLaughlin & Harvey in Belfast from 1979, then started part-time teaching in the College of Technology Belfast in 1983 and began teaching full-time plastering in Belfast Institute (now Belfast Metropolitan College, BMC) in 1989.

When did you get involved in SkillBuild Competitions?

My involvement with SkillBuild began when I first started teaching and preparing students for the Northern Ireland Annual Inter College Construction Competition (now the SkillBuild NI Final). This competition was held in the College of Technology Belfast every year before moving around various venues from the early 90s. I always and still do get a tremendous buzz out of seeing my competitors succeed in competition.

I became the lead judge for Plastering in NI in the mid-90s and then due to the success of Belfast competitors in National competitions I was invited to be a SkillBuild UK judge.

What's your current role?

Currently my role is Lead Judge for Plastering and Plastering & Drywall Systems for SkillBuild UK and was invited in 2019 to become the WorldSkills UK Expert and Training Manager for Plastering & Drywall Systems.

At present I'm teaching plastering part-time in Southern Regional College, Newry and carrying out assessment work in the Errigal Academy for their Dry Liners. The UK squad currently consists of two apprentices from Errigal and we are training hard to get one of them through to the WorldSkills Finals 2021 in Shanghai.

