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# WorldSkills Beckons for Seven SERC Students

South Eastern Regional College (SERC) are celebrating the success of seven students who have been announced finalists in this year's **WorldSkills** UK after impressing a panel of judges with their talents during the regional heats of the competition.

Brendan Ad-  
dis (Newtownards),  
Courtney Johnston  
(Newtownards), Katie  
Graham (Dromara) and  
Nathan Corry (Belfast)  
have been selected as  
Health, Hospitality and  
Lifestyle finalists with  
their impressive con-  
fectionary skills, while  
Danny Bunphaung  
(Newtownards), Phadon  
Wichianrak (Comber)  
are finalists in the same  
category for Culinary  
Arts.

Level 3 electrical apprentice Scott Barr (Ballygowan) has also been selected as a Construction and Infrastructure finalist with his electrical installation skills.

Scott has already proven himself to be a fierce competitor, having previously won gold in both SPARKS UK Electrical Apprenticeship of the Year and the **WorldSkills** Regional **SkillBuild** competition.

He has also earned the title of Overall Young Apprentice of the Year and was presented with the Haldane Fisher Cup which recognises the top apprentice across all construction trades involved in the **WorldSkills** Regional **Skill-Build** competition.

Known as the UK's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event, the **Worldskills** UK finals will be held

on 21-23 November 2019 at the NEC Birmingham.

The students follow in the success of Level 3 Plastering student, Curtis Johnston (Hillsborough) who recently competed as part of Team UK at **WorldSkills** 2019 in Kazan, Russia.

Curtis' remarkable plastering skills saw him recognised as the best in the UK for his skill area and showed that he had the commitment and determination necessary to be one of only four competitors chosen from Northern Ireland for Team UK.

Facing 1,354 competitors from 63 countries



From left to right; SERC culinary students Danny Bunphaung (Newtownards) and Phadon Wichianrak (Comber) competing during the **WorldSkills** regional heats are two of the seven SERC students heading to the **WorldSkills** UK 2019 Finals.

and regions competing in 56 skills at **World-Skills** 2019. Team UK

walked away with 4 gold, 1, silver, 1 bronze and 15 medallions of excellence.

Ken Webb, Principal and Chief Executive, SERC said: "We are proud of Curtis' performance at **WorldSkills 2019**, Curtis' skills and determination has blazed a trail for current and future students, particularly those who are preparing to compete at a national level."

He added: "We are equally delighted for

our students competing in **Worldskills** UK in November.

"They have already demonstrated exceptional skills in Confectionary, Culinary Arts and Electrical Installation. This progression to the finals illustrates that they have the highest skill levels and commitment. It is a tremendous honour for the College as it exemplifies the high-quality teaching and training on offer here at SERC."