

## Students build strong foundations with SkillBuild NI success

TWO Northern Regional College apprentices were among the star performers at the recent SkillBuild Northern Ireland finals.

Conor Dallas from Loughgiel, who is a first-year bench joinery apprentice with Mivan and a student at the College's Ballymoney campus, scooped the top award in the joinery.

Bailey Gibson from Larne, a second-year carpentry apprentice with Kudos and a student at the College's Newtownabbey campus, won the carpentry section at the event hosted by the Construction Industry Training Board Northern Ireland (CITB NI) at its Nutt's Corner training facility.

As regional winners, Conor and Bailey each received a cup and a cheque for £80. They may get an opportunity to represent Northern Ireland in the Skill-build UK and/or Skill M&E UK National Finals and potentially secure a place on Team UK for WorldSkills international finals in France in 2024.

The SkillBuild competition, which is governed by CITB, is the largest multi-trade competition in the UK for young students and apprentices. The annual competition is designed to test skills, techniques and ability to work within tight timeframes in the construction trades which

also include brickwork, plumbing, electrical, floor tiling, plastering and brickwork.

Ian Forsythe, Curriculum Area Manager for Construction in the Department of Advanced Technologies at Northern Regional College, said: "The SkillBuild competitions are a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate their skills and knowledge gained in their specific curriculum skill area."

"The College has some highly skilled apprentices and trainees and the competitions give them a chance to see how their skills measure up against those of their peers."

Congratulating Conor and Bailey on their success in the regional finals, Christine Brown, Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning, said: "This is a great achievement for Conor and Bailey, and for Northern Regional College, recognising the high standards of training delivered by the Carpentry and Joinery team. We wish them good luck in the next stage of competition, and of course in their further studies as they progress on their chosen career pathways."



*Bailey Gibson (left) and Conor Dallas were among the star performers at the recent SkillBuild NI finals hosted by CITB NI.*