

Media Source Press Page 10

Circulation 3,405

Topic CITB



Kilkeel's Josh is named one of the UK's best young plasterers

A KILKEEL student has been named one of the best trainee plasterers in the UK.

Josh McBride travelled last week to the Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes to undertake three intense days of competition.

The Kilkeel trainee has consistently delivered in competition settings, having finished second in the Northern Ireland regional finals back in May, and he again delivered last week by winning bronze at the UK finals.

It was all part of this year's **SkillBuild** National Finals, which took place from Tuesday, 21 to Thursday, 23 November.

Competitors were tasked with constructing a project designed by an expert panel of judges, within an 18-hour timeframe. The project tested the individual's knowledge and skills, as well as their ability to work under pressure within strict timelines, all while adhering to health and safety protocols.

Another local SRC student who competed within the **SkillBuild** National Finals in Milton Keynes was Niall Rice from Castlewellsan who competed in the bricklaying category.

SkillBuild is delivered by the Con-



*Kilkeel plastering student Josh McBride took bronze at the **SkillBuild** UK finals. 2348947c*

struction Industry Training Board (**CITB**) and showcases some of the brightest talent in construction. The prestigious competition brings together highly skilled learners and apprentices to battle it out to be crowned winner of their chosen trade.

CITB's latest **Construction Skills** Network (CSN) report states that an extra 4,450 workers will be required to meet NI construction demand by 2027.

SkillBuild is a fantastic opportunity to alter common misconceptions of the industry and promote the diverse range of roles available. **CITB** NI host the **SkillBuild** NI Regional Final annually in partnership with one of the local colleges and it is an important event for competitors, supported by colleges, their trainers/lecturers and local sponsors.

Raymond Sloan, Principal & CEO of Southern Regional College commented: "These results from the 2023 **SkillBuild** National Finals in Milton Keynes round off an exceptional period of success by SRC students. Our students have shown time after time, their perseverance in honing their craft and their commitment to success.

"To make it to the National Finals is testament to the dedication of both our students and their lecturers who have passed on a wealth of knowledge. I congratulate all students for another truly marvellous achievement."