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Young apprentices excel on regional stage

Construction students pit their wits against 'the best of the best'

BY MARK MCGOLDRICK

CONSTRUCTION apprentices at the South West College in Enniskillen pitted their wits 'against the best of the best' at one of the North's leading industry competitions.

A team from Fermanagh's South West College, teamed up with their Omagh counterparts, to represent the college at the much-anticipated and competitive annual **SkillBuild** NI Regional Competition.

Delivered by The **Construction Industry Training Board**, the competition is designed to test skills, technique and ability in tight time-frame's and identify the top performers in 12 different trade areas in the industry.

Head of Work Based Learning Programme and Curriculum Support at the South West College, Chris Robinson, felt the initiative was very important for young construction apprentices.

"The annual **SkillBuild** NI competition is a fantastic opportunity for SWC apprentices to



CENTRE STAGE... The South West College in Enniskillen was well represent at the recently held event.



TOP PLUMBER... South West College Enniskillen apprentice David Bateman Smith achieved first place in the Plumbing category.

put their skills and knowledge against the best of the best across the whole of Northern Ireland," he said.

"Their success is testament to not only their dedication to their career but also the support and expert tutelage of their employers and lecturers at South West College.

"A huge congratulations to all our apprentices who qualified to take part in the competition and my sincere thanks to their employers and SWC staff.

"A special word of congratulations to SWC lecturer Jimmy Martin who received the Hugh Gettinby Best Trainer/Lecturer Award," added Mr Robinson.

Chief Executive of the The **Construction Industry Training Board**, Barry Neilson, also feels that the **SkillBuild** NI Regional Competition is beneficial to young students.

“A huge congratulations to all the apprentices who took part in the **SkillBuild** NI Regional Competition 2024,” he said.

"The event displayed remarkable talent and showcased the dedication of future construction leaders.

"Witnessing their enthusiasm highlights a promising future for the industry. Apprenticeships are crucial for industry growth, allowing businesses to shape their future workforce and develop necessary skills.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partner SWC for the fantastic showcase of the NI talent pool throughout the competition and we look forward to the **SkillBuild** UK National Finals in November."