



Pictured are joinery students, who focused on completing a set task within a specified timeframe, competing for podium spots and the chance to advance to the next stage of the competition.



SWC electrical students are pictured with Celine McCartan, principal and chief executive, SWC staff and Rachel Dorovatas, CITB NI executive director.

Local apprentices shine in SkillBuild NI competition

SOUTH West College (SWC) apprentices and trainees recently showcased their exceptional talents at the annual SkillBuild NI Inter-campus Competition 2025, hosted at SWC's Omagh Campus.

The prestigious event, organised by the Construction Industry Training Board NI (CITB NI) and supported by the Department for the Economy, brought together top construction students from Omagh, Dungannon and Enniskillen to compete across multiple disciplines.

SkillBuild NI is the UK's largest

multi-trade competition, providing a platform for emerging construction talent to demonstrate their expertise. SWC students took part in various trade categories, including brickwork, carpentry, joinery, plumbing, electrical, plastering and drywall systems.

Each participant undertook a timed skills test, pushing their craftsmanship and technical abilities to the limit.

At the end of the competition, all participants received certificates, with category winners announced across each trade area.

These outstanding students now have the opportunity to progress to the next stage of the competition, with the ultimate goal of competing at the prestigious WorldSkills stage.

Success in the upcoming rounds will see them benchmarked against top-performing apprentices from other Further Education Colleges across Northern Ireland, with the potential to represent the region at national and international levels.

COMMITMENT

Christopher Robinson, Head of

Work-Based Learning at SWC, commended the students for their commitment and achievements.

He said, "The SkillBuild NI competition is an incredible opportunity for our students to showcase their technical abilities and gain well-deserved recognition for their craftsmanship. The high standard of work produced is a testament to the outstanding training provided at South West College and the dedication of both students and staff."

"A huge thank you to the lecturers, technicians, managers, support staff, and employers who have

played a key role in preparing our apprentices and trainees for this event."

John Moss, Head of Department for Sustainability, Construction, and Transport, also praised the competitors, adding, "These competitions do more than highlight technical talent; they foster key skills such as resilience, self-confidence, and communication, all of which are essential for academic and professional success."

"Congratulations to all participants, and best wishes to those advancing to the next stage!"



SWC plumbing students who competed in the competition are pictured with Celine McCartan, principal and chief executive, SWC staff, and Rachel Dorovatas, CITB NI executive director.