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Apprentice skills showcased

South Eastern Regional College (SERC) apprentices gathered their tools to compete against each other in the annual inter-campus Skillbuild competition which was held at the Lisburn Campus.

When the results were announced, local students Graham Smyth, from Newtownards, and Jordan Hamill were celebrating taking home first and second place respectively in the plastering category.

The event is designed to test and challenge the ability of its apprentices working in the construction trades including, joinery, plastering and carpentry.

The test pieces challenge the ability of apprentices to follow detailed instructions, test skills within tight timeframes, and produce neat and accurate work – all essential requirements for today's construction environment.

The apprentices were set a test project which took a day to complete. At the end of the day their projects were judged and scored. The

winners, who qualify from the Inter Campus Competitions, will represent the College and compete at the annual Skillbuild NI Regional finals later in the year. Winners may progress further to represent Northern Ireland in the Skills Show UK and potentially at World Skills. David Copper from **CITB** congratulated the apprentices on their achievements. Prizes were kindly sponsored by S.G Jones Lisburn, Jim's DIY, JP Corry, D.E. Services, and Murdock's Building Supplies.

John Nixon SERC Head of School for Construction and Engineering commented on how Skillbuild benefits the students: "Skillbuild provides a unique stage for trainees to showcase their skills and motivates them to reach the highest standards in trade careers.

"The competition couldn't happen without the support of the local employers and sponsors and we extend our thanks to all who have helped the apprentices to be able to compete at this competition and sponsored the prizes.

"SERC students are encouraged to get involved in competitions as it demonstrates to future employers the level, skill and commitment they have within their industry. Past winners have successfully progressed into employment, because they have an edge over other students, having been involved in these types of competitions."

SERC provides a range of full and part-time courses. For information please call 0345 600 7555, visit www.serc.ac.uk or find us on Facebook, search: South Eastern Regional College.



SERC plastering apprentice Graham Smyth from Newtownards won first place at the College inter-campus Skill Build competition. Graham is pictured with SERC deputy head of school for construction Alex Moorehead.