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Page: 27

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(CIT-488)

Page 1 of 2

Ref: CITB 1173063

## NRC apprentices strike gold at the Skills Show!

**CONGRATULATIONS to two Ballymena apprentices Robert Hamilton and Ryan Connor who won gold at the Skills Show in Birmingham last week.**

Robert, the youngest competitor in the Carpentry & Joinery Skill Area, is a past student of Dunclogh College and was introduced to the College through the Entitlement Framework route at the age of 14 studying Construction units from the CCEA Occupational Studies qualification.

This course was part of a Ballymena Learning Together partnership funded under the Entitlement Framework Programme.

He then progressed to NRC to take up his apprenticeship full-time.

Ryan Connor and NRC/ETT apprentice who was the gold medal winner in Electrical Installation at the Skillbuild competition earlier this year has also scooped the top award in this category in Birmingham.

Ryan is employed by Knox Electrical Ltd. Electrical Installation Tutor, Alistair McDonald said: "We are delighted with Ryan's success. He is a very hard working de-

icated apprentice and is a great ambassador for NRC and the industry."

Derek Thompson, Electrical Training Trust (ETT) commented: "We would like to thank the hardworking lecturers and management team at NRC who have contributed to Ryan's success.

"Both Ryan and his employer have clearly benefited from the joint College and ETT partnership approach to apprenticeship training."

Ronnie Laverty, Head of Faculty for Built Environment & Engineering at NRC said: "We are over the moon with these results.

"It's a great opportunity for our talented young trainees to demonstrate their skills and their ability to perform at the highest level.

"A big thank you must also go the Lecturers who have supported both Robert and Ryan in preparation for this prestigious competition".

Robert and Ryan could now be invited to join the short list for the

WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017.

Being shortlisted would give him them the opportunity of representing the UK at the WorldSkills - the world's largest international skills competition.

Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry commended the Northern Ireland medal winners for excelling in their skill area.

"This is an excellent achievement for Northern Ireland. It is a great opportunity to showcase and celebrate the high level of skills we possess and the impressive talent of our workforce.

"It reflects the high standards of training in our colleges and the commitment to excellence demonstrated by the competitors. Northern Ireland should feel very proud of such an inspiring performance on the UK stage."

Over 75,000 people attended the Skills Show and watched 588 apprentices and learners battle it out in 64 skills competitions, ranging from Forensic Science to Floristry, with the aim of being named 'UK Champion' in their chosen skill.

Visitors to the Skills



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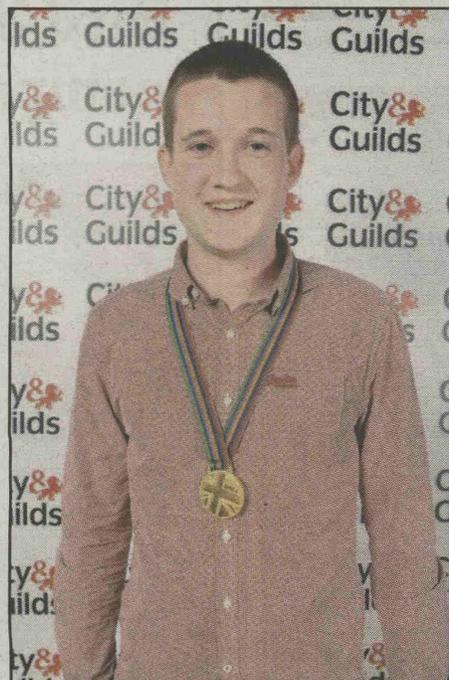
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(CIT-488)

Page 2 of 2

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Show were also able to receive the latest information on apprenticeships and other training opportunities.



Ryan Connor won gold in electrical installation.



Robert Hamilton who took gold in carpentry and joinery.