



PRESS RELEASE

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Stevenson College Edinburgh Students Presented with Awards at Worldskills Ceremony

Four Stevenson College Edinburgh students were among 90 young people to be presented with skills awards at Scottish Worldskills Ceremony in Perth yesterday.

Paul Clark, a Computer Networking student at Stevenson won the bronze prize in the Cisco ITC Networking Challenge and three HND Music students Fay Sheret, Lisa Wickstead and Laura Dixon came third in the popular music category.

WorldSkills UK is the UK's premier set of skills competitions for young people and adults. Their main aim is to help raise the standards of training and performance at work by strengthening the contribution of skills competitions to the UK economy.

WorldSkills UK is supported by government, the Devolved Nations and a host of other partners across business, industry and the world of education and training.

Stevenson has established itself as a leader in providing training in computer networking and has been named as one of two centres of excellence for Cisco training in the UK in 2007.

Margaret Clark, a lecturer in computing at Stevenson College Edinburgh said:

“We are really proud of Paul. It's great when students receive awards like this as it recognises both their hard work and the hard work that is put in by the lecturing staff. Because the computing and IT industry moves and evolves so quickly, we have to constantly reinvent our courses to ensure that they are relevant to employers. Winning awards like this demonstrates that we are delivering the kind of courses employers want and that we are providing our students with industry standard education and training.”

The music students formed a trio called Afterglow with Faye Sheret on lead vocals, Lisa Wickstead on percussion and Laura Dixon on acoustic guitar. In September this year the band had received acclaim when performing at the Balkin Youth Festival in Bulgaria. Lecturer in Music at Stevenson College, Colin Train, said:

“The band performed an original piece and a Damien Rice cover version. They stood out from the rest as an all girl band with an acoustic set in a category dominated by large rock bands.”

The competition was held in Newcastle in April and since all three girls have progressed from the NC2 Music course to study the HND in Music.

The theme of the Scottish Worldskills ceremony in Perth was ' The Road to London'. The next WorldSkills competition, which happens every two years, will come to London in 2011. The WorldSkills heats from now until June 2010 will chose potential candidates to join the UK team at that event.

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