

Reading College Student Wins Gold at WorldSkills UK Competition

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- Nick Jones awarded Gold and Robyn Bailey wins Highly Commended

Reading, UK, 20th November 2012 – Reading College, the Thames Valley's leading Further and Higher Education College, announced today that two of its students, from the last academic year, competed in the WorldSkills UK 2012 final, winning Gold and Highly Commended. The Skills Show, (which takes place from 15th to 17th November), hosts this annual event at the NEC Birmingham with competitions, awards and activities aimed at bringing skills to life and changing the way individuals and organisations think about skills, training and apprenticeships.

The performers in the WorldSkills UK competitions kept visitors enthralled with their abilities over the three days and the line-up of winners included some of the UK's most talented apprentices, employers and learners. Winners celebrated at a glittering closing ceremony which included Nick Jones and Robyn Bailey, Reading College students of Industrial Electronics, who were presented with Gold and Highly Commended awards.

Over 500 people took part in 61 WorldSkills UK National Competitions in skills ranging from Aeronautical Engineering through to Landscape Gardening. The competitors secured a place in the WorldSkills UK competitions after competing in regional heats throughout the UK earlier this year. The competitors battled it out to win Gold, Silver and Bronze and ultimately be named the 'best of the best' in the UK at their chosen skill. TV presenter Angelica Bell was on stage to hand out the medals to the winners.

Both Nick and Robyn studied at Reading College and completed the Engineering BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma. Upon leaving college earlier this year, Robyn found a job at National Grid and Nick is currently on a gap year but is still studying for an A-level at Reading College.

The Reading College Engineering Department has competed in the regional and UK finals for the past three years, but this is the first time that a student has won Gold. Lesley Donoghue, Principal of Reading College comments: "This is an outstanding accolade and we would like to congratulate both Nick and Robyn in gaining this tremendous achievement and are very proud of both of them. We focus very hard on helping our students 'to go further' and I think this really demonstrates that anything is possible. I am excited to track their progress and to see how they can harness this award going forward. Well done Nick and Robyn."

As a Gold medal winner, Nick must now start working towards UK squad selection and hopefully he will be competing in the WorldSkills competition taking place in Germany next year or in Brazil in 2015.

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About Reading College

Reading College is the further education college located at the edge of Reading town centre. With over 6,000 students on over 900 courses, the College offers a wide choice of full-time, part-time, higher education and work-based courses for people in Reading and the surrounding areas. Reading College is

committed to raising skills levels in the region and to developing highly employable people for all sectors. More information about Reading College and the courses on offer can be found at:
www.reading-college.ac.uk

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