

Skills can make a world of difference

FOR the first time the United Kingdom's best young construction craftsmen will visit Northern Ireland as part of their preparations for WorldSkills 2011. WorldSkills, the skills equivalent of the Olympics, is the largest vocational skills competition in the world, and will be held in London this October.

Fourteen Northern Ireland competitors are vying for a place on Team UK in such diverse skills areas as bricklaying, carpentry, cooking, car painting, refrigeration and air conditioning, wall and floor tiling and mechatronics. Northern Ireland, with its 14 competitors, has the highest number of competitors of all the UK regions.

The Department for Employment and Learning is proud to announce that North West Regional College's Greystone Centre in Limavady will welcome members of Squad UK Construction Skills for their last training week before Team UK for WorldSkills 2011 is selected.

The event is taking place at Greystone Centre, North West Regional College Limavady Campus, on Monday, May 23 – Thursday, May 26. During the four day event at the state-of-the-art training facility in Limavady, visitors will be able to observe the Squad UK members, including five from Northern

Ireland and their peers from Scotland, England and Wales, as they undertake

their intensive final training. This is a chance to see the high standard of skills required to compete with the world's best in construction skills, as well as providing an opportunity to meet the Technical Managers from each trade area.

Visitors will have the opportunity to watch the UK's best in such skills as plastering and dry-wall systems, bricklaying, cabinet making, joinery, and painting and decorating. There will also be stands and demonstrations on vocational options such as hairdressing and beauty therapy, music, sports, early years education, design crafts, hospitality & catering, business & administration, engineering and much more. There will also be the chance for visitors to 'Have a Go' at special taster sessions in a range of construction skills. This event will be of interest for school pupils of all ages, trades trainees, employers and employees in the Construction Industry and is an excellent opportunity to discover what it takes to train and compete on a world stage. Groups and individuals are invited to book for a 90 minute session, during which time they will enjoy a tour of the trade areas, and have a chance

to try their hand at a construction skill.

■ For more details or to book to visit this showcase please complete the form online at www.nwrc.ac.uk/worldskills or at www.delni.gov.uk



Department for Employment and Learning permanent secretary Alan Shannon; Mark Woods, a member of Squad UK who will be competing for a place on Team UK for WorldSkills 2011, and MTV presenter Tina Campbell

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