

PRESS RELEASE



Gen2
Unit 1, Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate
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Celebrating Achievement at Gen2's Higher Education Ceremony

Gen2 has held their sixth Higher Education Ceremony at Energus, Workington. The ceremony was a joint celebration in partnership with Sellafield Ltd which celebrated the achievements of the Gen2 Higher Education learners.

The ceremony was held on the evening of 10th February in which the students were presented with certificates and special awards. All of the students have completed their studies part-time, whilst in full-time employment with a number of companies including Sellafield Ltd, James Fisher Nuclear, Morgan Sindall, James Walker, Shepley and Nestle. A total of 50 Gen2 students are graduating.

Master of Ceremonies for the ceremony was Gen2's Director of Nuclear Education and Skills, John Robertson, who introduced four special awards, which were presented by Tom Samson, CEO of NuGen. The awards were:

- Foundation Degree Student of the year, which was presented to Michael Green
- Honours Degree Student of the Year, which was presented to Ian Binns
- Endeavour Award, which was presented to Jack Bowman
- Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, which was presented to Michael Tyson

Mike Smith OBE, Gen2 CEO said, "This event is unique as normally ceremonies such as these are reserved for Universities and Colleges, not Work-Based Training Providers. It is also unique because of the nature of the programmes that we run with our partners and employers."

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Another key difference is that our students are working full-time whilst undertaking an academic degree. This is the real strength of our degree programmes as our students gain real first-hand on-the-job training and experience whilst getting a formal qualification. This means that they are often judged to be more work-ready, savvy and definitely more capable of immediately contributing to their employer's bottom-line, when compared to their peers straight out of university.

They also achieve their qualification without running up huge debts, as their employer not only pays for their academic studies but pays them as well whilst they are studying.

I would like to say thank you to our partners at Sellafield Ltd for their continued support and sponsorship of this event. Also a special note of thanks to our guest speakers, John Clarke, CEO of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Tom Samson, CEO of NuGen. We were also honoured by the attendance of Mike Starkie, the elected Mayor of Copeland.

Thanks also go to Paul Fairclough, Director at the National College for Nuclear, representing the Institute of Measurement & Control and the Society of Operations Engineers, for their support and recognition of the quality of our programmes. Two awards were presented to students by Paul Fairclough with Michael Tyson announced as the Institute of Measurement and Control Student of the Year and Sophie Garroway announced as the Society of Operations Engineers student of the year.

It goes without saying that none of this success would be possible without the support of our employers, and also the experience and dedication of our Gen2 team of lecturers.

Finally, I would also like to add my personal congratulations to this year's students for their hard work, dedication and determination to complete their degree whilst holding down a full-time job."

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Gen2's Higher Education Manager, Kevin Rumney, said "I am delighted that so many family members, friends and employers came to the ceremony to support and recognise the achievement of our degree students. The Higher Education department is very proud that we can offer students the chance to study engineering degrees without the need for them to leave the county. Our students are recognised as being highly motivated and the ceremony has given the staff the opportunity to congratulate the students and share in the enjoyment of their celebratory evening".

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Notes to editors: To learn more about Gen2's Higher Education programmes, please visit www.gen2.ac.uk/advanced-learning.

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