

# PRESS RELEASE



## **Gen2**

Unit 1, Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate

Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JX

**Phone:** 01900 701300

**Web:** [www.gen2.ac.uk](http://www.gen2.ac.uk)

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**Date: 20 September 2016**

**Embargo: Immediate Release**

## ***Gen2 welcome new apprentices to Furness***

Cumbrian based training provider, Gen2, has just welcomed its 2016 South Cumbria apprentices with almost 60 engineering and business apprentices starting in the Furness centre and over 300 Gen2 apprentices starting across the County. This impressive number of apprentices is set to rise to over 425 apprentices starting their apprenticeship with the Gen2 by August 2017.

Amongst those starting with Gen2 are 33 students who are commencing a degree apprenticeship with companies including Morgan Sindall, Jacobs, Balfour Beatty and Sellafield Ltd. The degree apprenticeship takes place over 5 years and after completing rigorous academic and vocational programme they will complete a level 6 apprenticeship which will include an Honours Degree in Engineering.

Mike Smith OBE, Chief Executive Officer said, "This continued demand clearly demonstrates the importance and value that our employers continue to place on high quality apprenticeships.

With well over 2,600 applicants across the County, it also shows that young people are looking for alternatives to traditional education routes, including going on to sixth form and

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university. Increasingly they want to gain the employability skills that companies need as well as learn a profession whilst being paid, which is what an apprenticeship gives. This also shows in the quality of our applicants which has been at an all-time high, and allows our employers to take advantage and nurture Cumbria's talented young people."

Gen2's training model is unique in that it only employs apprentices that meet the employers' needs. Gen2's success rates continue to be over 20% above the national average with over 91% of apprentices achieving their apprenticeship.

Gen2 regularly engage with over 100 employers in South Cumbria, and this year saw some of the largest employers in the area taking on new talent, including GlaxoSmithKline, BAE Systems, Burlington Slate, Wax Lyrical and Kimberly Clark.

Julie Fell, 21 from Bootle, has just started her mechanical apprenticeship and will be training to be a CNC Machinist with Astec Precision. She said, "I've written an application for Gen2 every year since I was 16 but have never had the courage to actually submit the application. This year, I knew it was the right decision as I was vying for a new challenge. I'm excited to learn new things, as I enjoy being hands on and I'm constantly wanting to be active in my job. I know I'll learn more of this job and look forward to the exciting opportunities this apprenticeship and working with Astec Precision will provide me with".

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**Notes to editors:**

**Media Enquires:**

Jackie Miller, Marketing and Communications Manager,  
Tel: 01900 701325. Email: [jackie.miller@gen2.ac.uk](mailto:jackie.miller@gen2.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.gen2.ac.uk](http://www.gen2.ac.uk)