

PRESS RELEASE



Gen2

Unit 1, Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate

Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JX

Phone: 01900 701300

Web: www.gen2.ac.uk

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Gen2 welcomes the 2016 apprentices

Cumbrian based training provider, Gen2, has welcomed its 2016 apprentices this week with over 300 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. In addition to the traditional science, engineering and business apprenticeships this intake also includes new apprenticeships such as Nuclear Welding Inspection Technician, Fire and Rescue, Project Controls and Technical Services.

Amongst those starting this week 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 a 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 university. Increasingly they want to gain the employability skills that companies need as well

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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.

This year saw some of the largest employers in the area taking on new talent including, Sellafeld Ltd, Morgan Sindall, Iggesund Paperboard, Cavendish Nuclear and NNL.

Just over 18% of those starting their engineering apprenticeships with Gen2 based in Energus are female, which is impressive when compared to a national average of just 3.6%

Insert quote from learner on day

ENDS

Notes to editors:

Media Enquires:

Jackie Miller, Marketing and Communications Manager,

Tel: 01900 701325. Email: jackie.miller@gen2.ac.uk

Web: www.gen2.ac.uk