

London Skills Team Brief

2014 – Issue 1



Introductory Remarks

London is one the most prosperous capital cities in the world, attracting talent and skills from across the globe. Yet, not everyone in London shares fully in the city's success.

The further education (FE) sector is key to increasing the number of young people engaged in employment, education or training in London and providing young people with the skills sets that match those required by the local employment market.

One of the ways in which this is achieved is through the use of skills competitions and experiential careers events to promote vocational learning paths. The London Skills Team Brief illustrates what this means in practice for London colleges.

*Cathy Walsh, AoC London Region Co-Chair;
AoC London Regional World Skills Champion
2013-2014 and Principal, Barking and Dagenham
College*

Glossary of Skills Terminology

[WorldSkills International](#)

WorldSkills International is a not for profit membership association open to agencies or bodies which have a responsibility for promoting vocational education and training in their respective countries/regions. WorldSkills International organises competitions in various trades for young skilled people every two years since 1950. The next WorldSkills competition will take place Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 2015.

[WorldSkills UK](#)

WorldSkills UK is the organisation representing UK at WorldSkills International. WorldSkills UK organises the national competitions, which are a stepping stone towards participation in the international WorldSkills competitions.

[The Skills Show](#)

The Skills Show is the UK's largest skills and careers event and hosts WorldSkills UK national competitions. Set up in November 2011, in a short space of time The Skills Show has changed the way we think about and value work based education, skills and apprenticeships. The next national Skills Show event is held at the NEC Birmingham, 13 to 15 November 2014.

The Skills Show Experience

The Skills Show Experience aims to expand the reach of The Skills Show across the UK by organising smaller scale experiential careers events. Some of these events include regional heats for the national skills competitions. The Skills Show Experience is supported by The Skills Show, the European Social Fund and the National Careers Service.

Skills London

Skills London is London's largest careers event independently organised by London First and Prospects Events since 2005 and is supported by the Mayor of London. Skills London will next take place on 21-22 November 2014.

London Colleges at The Skills Show, 14-16 November 2013, Birmingham



The Skills Show is UK's largest skills and careers event that brings together skills competitions, top employers, specialist careers advice, Have a Go activities and some of the biggest names in skills and education. In 2013, 43 competitors from 10 London colleges were invited to compete at The Skills Show, and 11 of them were awarded prizes at the end of the competitions.

College	Winner
College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London	Andre Ferreira – Silver in Games Development (advanced level)
	Ahmed Ali – Gold in Mobile Robotics (higher level)
College of North West London	Albret Angelo
	Chrishanth – Gold in Mobile Robotics (higher level)
	Mihai Sucitu – Gold in Web Development (intermediate level)
	Umesh Kara – Silver in Refrigeration (advanced level)
	Larry Hill – Bronze in Web Development (advanced level)
	Yogdip Raghavi – Bronze in Web Development (intermediate level)
Redbridge College	Lucie Overson – Gold in Nail Enhancements (intermediate level)
Westminster Kingsway College	Ruth Hansom – Gold in Culinary Arts (advanced level)
	Sophie Streeting – Commended in Professional Restaurant Services (advanced level)
	Olivia Whitbread – Commended in Professional Restaurant Services (advanced level)

Winners' experiences:

College of North West London

College of North West London (CNWL) students were big winners at last autumn's WorldSkills UK National Finals. With three golds, one silver and two bronze medals, CNWL finished 3rd in the medal table, out of 235 organisations who took part in the finals (over 450 training organisations entered at the heats stage).



Mihai Sucito, from Kingsbury, completed his ICT studies at the CNWL in July, but has been regularly coming in to prepare for The Skills Show with his former tutor Ali Sharif. He

won Gold in Web Development, coming out top in challenges including building a site for a mobile device, and developing a website for adventure theme park. Mihai commented: "This is the first competition I've entered and I really enjoyed it. It was a great experience which was made even better by winning Gold! I was speechless when I found out. All that hard work and commitment certainly paid off."

Lucie Overson, Redbridge College

Lucie Overson won the Gold Medal for Intermediate Nail Technology at The Skills Show. When asked how she felt about the win, Lucie said: "It was an amazing feeling –



to win this now, after never having won anything in my life, and to have my children there watching. To inspire my children like that really means the world to me – more so than

anything else – they were so proud and it was such an amazing feeling!"

Lucie returned to Redbridge College in 2013 after first attending in 2008, and is eager to continue her studies. Lucie said "I was never really competitive at school – I had my children young and I've just sort of stayed at home and brought the kids up – but now I really want to do my Level 3 and enter again next year. I want to get another medal to go with this one!"

Andre Ferreira, College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London



Andre Ferreira won the Silver medal at this year's The Skills Show. Andre competed against 9 other finalists out of over 200 entries from 38 UK colleges over 3 days at

NEC Birmingham to bring back his well-earned and coveted prize of a Silver Medal.

Andre (17), who formerly attended local secondary school Park View Academy where he studied IT, joined the college last year.

Impressed by the Games Development course's excellent reputation, Andre is now in the second year of his course. His tutor Gary Beswick, put him forward to enter the Skills Show competition due to his impressive ability.

On winning Silver, Andre said: "The skills I picked up during the competition were amazing and it has made me a much better modeller. I also learned that you need to be very flexible to meet deadlines. The experience was unique and if I could do it again I would!"

London Colleges at Skills London 2013, 22-23 November, London



Over 30,000 young people looking for their next career step attended Skills London 2013, the event organised by Prospects Events in partnership with London First. The capital's biggest jobs and careers event for young people, took place at ExCeL, on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November with over 35,000

jobs, including Apprenticeships, it was the most successful event to date.

Over 180 organisations took part and 23 London's FE colleges exhibited at the event and were thrilled at the fantastic response from the huge range of visitors from across the capital.

"Brilliant turnout! It was great for raising profile and brand awareness within the local and wider community. We have received a great deal of support via our social media sites too!"

Lewis Morgan, Redbridge College

"A brilliant event with great opportunities and courses promoted."

Sian Palmer, Haringey Sixth Form

"The Skills London event is a great platform to showcase your college, the services it provides and the courses and programmes it offers."

Sonal Patel, Capel Manor College

"Skills London enabled us to gain an excellent level of exposure for our college and engage with a large number of potential future students. We look forward to returning in 2014!"

Matthew J Wicks, Sir George Monoux College

Skills London 2013 is run in partnership by London First and Prospects working with the Mayor of London, National Apprenticeship Service and National Careers Service. The Skills London 2014 event will be held at ExCeL on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 November.

The Skills Show Experience – London 2014

The Skills Show Experience aims to expand the reach of The Skills Show across the UK by organising smaller scale experiential careers events. The Skills Show Experience events in London will take place in spring and summer and will be organised in five London colleges.

The Skills Show Experience – London 2014: Events schedule

26 March 2014	College of North West London
4 April 2014	West Thames College
30 April 2014	Barking and Dagenham College
8 May 2014	South Thames College
3 July 2014	Hackney Community College

The events are targeted towards 14 to 25-year-old young people promoting vocational learning pathways and providing opportunities for the visitors to Have a Go at a range of interactive activities. The National Careers Service and other key stakeholders are working closely with AoC London Region and London colleges to ensure the high quality careers offer in the events.

“The Skills Show Experience provides unique local opportunities to inspire young people through hands on, practical Have a Go activities, the opportunity to engage with employers, colleges and learning providers, and access impartial careers advice to help them find out about the range of jobs and careers open to them.” – Ross Maloney, The Skills Show CEO

The Skills Show Experience forms part of the European Social Fund Technical Assistance

project, awarded to the Skills Funding Agency to promote the European Social Fund. In addition, the programme is co-funded by the Skills Funding Agency to deliver National Careers Service at the events.

Working in partnership with The Skills Show premier sponsors City & Guilds, the Edge Foundation and Premier Colleges, The Skills Show Experience provides young people with opportunities to discover what they are good at and what they enjoy, through interactive activities and experiences helping to shape their futures and transform their lives.

These events are co-funded by the European Social Fund, set up to improve employment opportunities in the European Union and help raise standards of living. The European Social Fund aims to help people fulfil their potential by giving them better skills and better job prospects.

To find out the latest on the events, like [The Skills Show Experience – London 2014](#) Facebook page.



Closing Remarks – Looking Forward

WorldSkills UK – The Skills Show in 2014: securing the links!

After the twin highspots in 2013, July WorldSkills Leipzig with Team UK's medal haul followed by 82,000 visitors and 700 competition finalists at the November Skills Show in Birmingham, 2014 will be a year to secure links and partnership in the drive for UK success at WorldSkills, Sao Paulo, Brazil in 2015!

The national AoC WorldSkills Portfolio Group, on which Cathy Walsh (Principal, Barking and Dagenham College) represents London, is focused on four core ambitions:

- ensure that UK vocational teaching, learning and assessment can all be improved by engagement of teachers/trainers, learners, colleges and providers in skills competition activity
- widen the reach of the national and local Skills Show Experience as a 'game changer' in the way careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) is delivered in the UK
- grow volume for the UK skills competitor base and secure the 'world class bridge' to international standards for the UK's winners and experts
- embed an 'inclusivity' plan across the whole range of competition and skills show experience activity – to increase diversity and ensure access to opportunity

In every UK region 2014 will see:

- the development of a regionally agreed and delivered continuing professional development programme, funded by the Education and Training Foundation, aimed at vocational trainers, teachers and assessors and showing the direct quality impact of competition engagement
- local Skills Show Experience activity using the 'experiential careers guidance' of 'have a go', showcasing, employer spotlights and all the techniques that have engaged young people, colleges, providers and employers so successfully at The Skills Show. This drive for new collaborative careers IAG through local partnerships is fully supported by the AoC campaign, [Careers Guidance: Guaranteed](#)
- a higher profile for local and regional competition heats and finals, with events integrated alongside the local skills show activity described above, joining up the drive for vocational 'participation' with the drive for vocational 'excellence'
- a regional focus on competition activity for currently under-represented groups, appropriately tailored to local circumstance and demography

Since WorldSkills London 2011 there has been a wealth of activity to develop The Skills Show experience, to mainstream competitions activity across the FE sector, to better link and benchmark UK vocational standards with international competitors and to grow, year on year, the competition registrations and the national and local skills

show ‘engaged’ numbers. It is through the national WorldSkills Portfolio Group and its nine English regional and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland ‘champions’ that this rich store of activity and resource is ‘linked’ and made accessible to colleges, training providers, teachers, trainers and employers across the country.

May 2014 be the year of ‘links and partnerships’ to fully mainstream the messages! WorldSkills, Sao Paulo, Brazil 2015, between the World Cup 2014 and the Olympic and Paralympic Games 2016 should be a supreme showcase of achievement for the UK’s FE, skills and apprenticeships sector!

Visit [AoC’s webpage on WorldSkills UK](#) for more information.

*David Smith, Director of WorldSkills
Engagement, Association of Colleges*

Photographs courtesy of:

- p1 – South Thames College (picture not related to news item)
- p2 – South Thames College (picture not related to news item)
- p3 (a) – College of North West London
- p3 (b) – Redbridge College
- p3 (c) – College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London
- p4 – Prospects Events
- p5 – South Thames College (picture not related to news item)

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