



NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2019



NEW COLLEGE AREAS OFFICIALLY OPENED

Ayrshire College has officially opened several exciting new areas for students to learn at its Ayr and Kilwinning campuses.

At its Ayr Campus, Tracey Stark, Ayrshire College Foundation Chair unveiled a new kitchen for students on Supported Learning courses. A brand new music studio and sound production suite, Rockpool Studios was opened by Janine Shilstone, the lead singer of Scottish pop punk band Vukovi. In the Care department, a suite for Care and Early Years students that includes a simulated hospital ward and nursery was opened by Professor Fiona McQueen, Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland and new Ayrshire College board member.



In the Kilwinning Campus, a kitchen for Supported Learning students was also unveiled by Ayrshire College Foundation Trustee Willie Mackie.

The new areas are the latest capital projects funded by the Ayrshire College Foundation. The Ayrshire College Foundation was set up to advance education by providing financial support for projects and activities involving Ayrshire College.

During the tour of Rockpool Studios, invited guests were treated to musical performances by Ayrshire College music students Annabel Thornett, Calum Mcphail, Kieran Robertson, and Nick Morgan.

Vukovi's Janine Shilstone, a former Ayrshire College student, said when opening Rockpool Studios:

"Everybody has to start somewhere, and looking back over the last eight years with what I've done, Ayrshire College was my somewhere. It gave me a great start in my career. It was a great stepping stone for me and I can't wait to see the even greater calibre of students the College will produce now that their facilities are industry standard and above."

"I am astounded at the new facilities here, they are as good as any recording facilities I have seen. Congratulations on your new studios and I'm sure it will make a difference to the experience the students will have at Ayrshire College."

New Ayrshire College board member, Professor Fiona McQueen, Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, said to Care and Early Years students at the launch "It's the Scottish Government's ambition for us all to have healthy working lives. In the jobs you have chosen to do – you will be making a difference to people's lives. You will be supporting others and saving lives and this is important work. Colleges help us recruit the right people.



TRUSTEE INTERVIEW:

Willie Mackie



I spent 36 years in Financial Services working across the UK, Melbourne Australia and latterly as Managing Partner of the Ayrshire and Arran region.

My passion for business and helping customers, triggered an interest in local economic development where I became a board member of Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire. I also had the great pleasure of being President of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and through the Chamber established the Chamber Business Forum.

Through Scottish Enterprise Ayrshire I was introduced to the College sector – my first involvement was as a board member of the legacy Ayr College as Chair of the Audit Committee. After a number of years I became Vice Chair then Chair just as the sector was being regionalised. In 2014 I was appointed Regional Chair Ayrshire College for a 4 year period and my term of office has just been renewed for a further 4 years.

During my business career I had the good fortune to see first-hand the positive impact education and training can have on people's lives. That enthusiasm is further fuelled on a daily basis as I see the fantastic work Ayrshire College delivers for our students.

I became a founding Trustee of the Ayrshire College Foundation and it is remarkable what the Foundation has achieved during those five years. I typically measure success by what an initiative actually delivers and I must say the Foundation has a track record of delivery which has been truly impressive.

There is no question that the work of the Foundation has had a transformational impact on the Ayrshire geography delivering campus upgrades which have directly benefited our staff and students. In my view Ayrshire now has one of the finest campus estates in the country.

The transformational journey continued with the 2018 summer works which I had the pleasure of visiting as the work progressed. Once again the improvements at Kilwinning and at Ayr create a more positive working environment for our students and I must commend the way in which these projects have been so well managed within very tight timescales. Along with the Scottish Funding Council, the Foundation will have contributed to a total capital spend of circa £3M this year – one of the largest single investments in any business in Ayrshire.

In addition to the capital projects a lasting memory for me will be the Mission Discovery programme which thanks to the Foundation is now in its third year. To meet real-life astronauts and senior executives from NASA is something I thought I would never do in my lifetime. To see so many schools engaged in this remarkable initiative has been a real highlight.

I am very proud to be a Trustee of the Ayrshire College Foundation and I look forward to supporting the Trustees as we look to make further investments in further education over the coming years.



Ambitious for Ayrshire

PROJECT UPDATES



**Enterprising
Students**

STUDENTS RECEIVE £5,000 GRANTS TO START UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS



Sandra Laurenson

Four talented Ayrshire College students are the first to receive grants to help them start up their own business, thanks to the generous funding from the Ayrshire College Foundation Enterprising Students Fund.

The Ayrshire College Foundation provides funding of grants up to £5,000 for students of Ayrshire College who are interested in developing ideas to start up their own business. To help students develop their enterprising skills, the College is working in partnership with Bridge 2 Business to support idea development.

Students are mentored by a Bridge 2 Business programme executive to create a business development plan. They can access the support and advice needed at the early stages of planning a business, during regular one to one sessions on campus. This is the first time a full-time enterprise programme executive has been based in a College.

There are currently 38 students working on a business plan. Those who complete the plan to a high standard, go forward to a judging panel, and if successful, will be awarded grant funding.



Aaron Gregory

First up was HNC Art and Design student, Sandra Laurenson, 39, from Prestwick who impressed the judges with her creative skills, designing personalised free motion embroidery pictures. Sandra said, "I am absolutely thrilled to receive this grant to buy a new sewing machine. This will open up opportunities for me to expand my product range, and production capacity of Jolly Well Made. It has given me so much confidence in myself, and I am very excited about the future as I just love what I do."

Enterprising HNC Business Management student, Aaron Gregory, 20, from Ayr has started a business, Pathogen Merchandising and Fulfilment, selling promotional merchandise for bands worldwide. Aaron says, "The grant is amazing, and means that my business idea can now move from the planning stage, to becoming a reality. The opportunities I have been given by coming to college are fantastic, and I am fully embracing all of them. I am passionate about music, enjoy networking, and with the business skills I am learning, I am looking forward to a bright future doing what I love to do."



Scott Haddow

NC Sound Production student, Scott Haddow, 28, from Irvine has started a business Eleven:Eleven offering a range of entertainment to bars, clubs, hotels and hosting private events across Ayrshire and Glasgow. Entertainment ranges from Comedy Nights, Live Music Evenings to Magic Shows and a Variety Show. Scott says:

“ I am delighted to be awarded this grant, and knowing the judges believed in me has given me confidence. This experience has lifted my aspirations. If I had not come to college, I would not be doing this now. I used to be a fencer, but now I am doing what I want in life. I am hardworking and driven, but I don't see it as work, because I'm doing something I love. ”

The final student to be awarded the grant is Bryan Shaw, 25 from New Cumnock, who is studying HNC Photography. Bryan's business is called 1815 Media and is a photography and videography business. Bryan says:

“ I have turned a hobby into a career. My college lecturers have inspired me by pushing me further, and they have really developed my potential. I've had so much encouragement to create a business plan, and it's helped build up my confidence and believe in myself. The whole experience has prepared me for life after college, and raised my aspirations to go further and higher. ”

Tracey Stark, Chair of the Ayrshire College Foundation said, “It has been positive and uplifting to see the level of interest from students who want to start their own business. We were impressed with the high standard of entries, the variety of business ideas, and the passion and energy from all these students. These students are studying full-time, some have part-time jobs or family commitments, and they are working all hours to get their business off the ground. The grants will provide the help they need to get started or to develop their business further. It's been a privilege to be able to support these young people at this stage in their careers, and make their business dreams a reality. It just shows, whoever you are or wherever you come from, if you really believe you can do it, you can!”

Students who want to find out more about business start-ups and accessing the Enterprising Students Fund can find out more [here](#).

Bryan Shaw

There is a wide range of exciting projects that have just been approved by the Ayrshire College Foundation Trustees. Here is a summary of each of the projects:



Caring for Bariatric Patients (Obesity) – Bariatric Bed, Hoist & Manikin

Obesity is a very real problem in the UK and across the world and judging by government figures and anecdotal evidence the problem is rapidly getting worse. The need for heavy weight manikins has never been greater.

In Ayrshire, around 60% of the population are overweight and around 30% are considered obese. This equipment will prepare our students to care for obese patients safely and with dignity. This equipment would enhance the student experience and would highlight the issue of obesity.

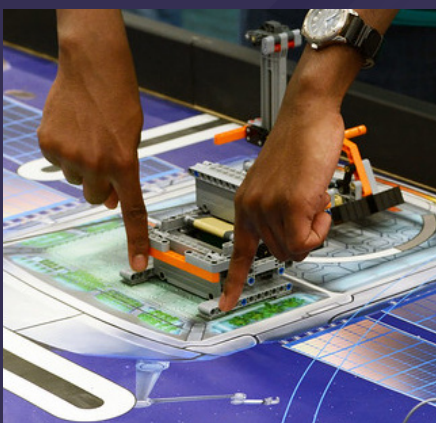
The Innovating for Learning funding means we can deliver a training programme which would include moving and handling and caring for the bariatric patient which is a growing problem within the NHS. This equipment will be used to deliver experiential learning for students using this resource. This would include the study of obesity and how to care for the bariatric patient.



Lego Robotics Project

Ayrshire College held a successful First Lego League event in December. Participating schools provided their own robots to complete the challenges. One of the teams at this event went on to win the UK national competition and are participating on an International level this year.

The College Engineering and Science department did not have any robots to complete these challenges, leaving the 4 Lego sets sat on a shelf unused. Funding will be used to purchase robots which comprise a central programmable hub that controls interchangeable components allowing traction, linear or rotation motion, infra-red detection and many more engineering solutions. They can be augmented with additional Lego pieces to create hooks and levers, allowing robots to activate switches and move other objects to solve problems.



Now the Engineering and Science team can go out to schools to promote STEM activities with an engaging challenge. And hopefully engage more young people to consider a career in science and engineering.



Ayrshire College, a catalyst for improvement of (Primary) School STEM education across Ayrshire

STEM education in Primary Schools across the three local authorities in Ayrshire is delivered in a variety of disparate ways, ranging from: regular lessons, one science week per year, individual STEM events, to, no dedicated STEM teaching at all. Local authorities would like to standardise and improve the quality of curriculum delivered.

To help primary schools achieve a more consistent approach, the STEM department at Ayrshire College has been developing a STEM activity booklet. Activities in the booklet currently cover almost the entire primary science curriculum at Level 2. We were hoping to develop this resource further by:

- Developing further activities to cover the entire Level 2 primary STEM curriculum
- Developing and delivering a programme of CPD for primary school teachers, who in most cases are non-specialists, and would benefit from this
- Preparing a “how to set up and run a Science club in your school” programme of activities. This will be aimed at S1 pupils to be delivered by our current Engineering/Science student STEM Ambassadors in cooperation with S6 students from target secondary schools who are working towards their Volunteering award

The Innovating for Learning funding will be used to cover the cost of additional staff hours required to produce the digital teaching resources, deliver the CPD material to the primary teachers/S6 students, and provide training and advice to Ayrshire College student STEM Ambassadors.



Ayrshire College - A centre of craft brewing excellence

The brewing industry in Scotland has over 130 breweries employing over 8000 staff. Out of these, it is the small, craft breweries that are experiencing the healthiest growth in the sector with 63% of them expecting to recruit additional staff and 80% intending to invest in staff training in the current year.

The STEM department at Ayrshire College has already taken steps to support this growth by successfully establishing links with a diverse range of external partners including Arran Brewery, SIBA and Cask Marque. We are the first college in Scotland to be awarded an SDS contract to launch MA in Brewing Skills in 2019, with 11 breweries registering their apprentices so far.

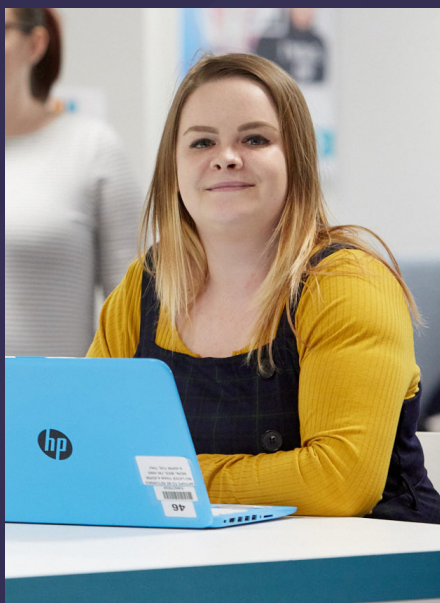


Furthermore we are at the cusp of offering short, distance learning courses for craft brewery staff UK wide, having established a partnership with Learning Nexus on a commercial basis.

In order to be able to start a new commercial brewing venture, amateur craft brewers typically go through the process of beer recipe refinement followed by launching a start-up brewing company.

We would like to become a centre of excellence where amateur craft brewers can receive training in technical aspects of brewing from both resident and guest lecturers, use the state of the art equipment to refine their recipes before launching them to market, and receive training in setting up and running a start-up business.

We will use the funding from Innovating for Learning to buy brewing equipment, and pay for staff costs to set up this project.



Empowering students access to online content

In order to help the College meet its legislative requirements under The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018, but also to empower the end user to take control of all of their online content produced by the College we will use the Innovating for Students funding to undertake a year's trial with a service called SensusAccess.

This service will enable staff and students to not only convert existing content (learning & teaching, college documents etc.) into a range of accessible formats (including braille, daisy epub, tagged pdf etc.) but also allow us to report on how much of our online content requires to be converted into accessible formats, and would allow us to help raise staff awareness of accessibility issues in learning & teaching material.

This project aims to empower students to take control of their own online content and convert it into the format that best suits their own needs. This will prevent barriers to their learning experience which can be caused by the time required to reformat content, or the need for the end user to identify themselves as requiring assistance.

SensusAccess
alternate media made easy



Improving the productivity of people and the workforce of Ayrshire through top class education and skill services

The productivity of the Ayrshire workforce and businesses holds the key to attracting and retaining more and better jobs. New technology will build better links between industry, our schools and the College, helping deliver on the aspirations of Developing the Young Workforce. Technology will provide a focus for high value skills development across full-time provision, bespoke industrial courses as well as Foundation and Modern Apprenticeships, providing the skills required for Ayrshire's emerging workforce.

New technology will also provide upskilling and re-skilling opportunities for Ayrshire's current workforce. As technology changes and revolutions such as Industry 4.0 become embedded, this technology will provide the workforce with the opportunity to increase or change their skillsets and benefit from the new opportunities as their workplace evolves.



Industry 4.0 is seen as the 4th industrial revolution, many of our engineering and science partners within the local area have still to catch up with industry 3.0, which is automation and robotics. Feedback from employers such as Spirit AeroSystems who are currently developing new methods of automated composite manufacture and Arran Breweries, clearly identify a requirement for upskilling of existing staff as manufacturing processes are rapidly changing.

We would aim to use the fund to buy new equipment and deliver upskilling training for industry while introducing new technology to our full-time, apprentice and schools links courses.



AC Studios

AC Studios will be a fully functional Radio and TV studio, capable of broadcast and live coverage of events. The provision of a studio technical base here at Ayrshire College has the potential to upskill our students in an area that is missing from our current delivery, while improving our ability to link with other institutions and the industry.

The main area of innovation would be in how the equipment is used in course delivery, student and external client engagement, as well as the potential to increase marketing of the College and the awareness of everything we do here. Through a project-based learning approach students would be able to engage in industry-like practice and hone skills required to be professional and technically efficient in a fast-paced industry, and more readily realise their ambitions.

The funding will be used to buy the studio equipment.



Mindfulness and Relaxation through VR Immersion

This project will give students and/or staff struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety, stress and low mood, the opportunity to trial meditation, guided meditation, mindfulness and relaxation techniques through fully immersive Virtual Reality.

Studies have shown that the use of VR has aided in the assessment, understanding, and treatment of mental health disorders. This is particularly useful for individuals who do not want or have not been able to use traditional methods of support such as counselling or do not want face to face support. Users can experience calming environments, practice meditation or simply take themselves away from the stresses of college life.

The funding will be used to buy the headsets.



**Collaborating
Communities**

This brand new fund is aimed at individuals or groups living or working in Ayrshire who have small projects which will benefit the community. Examples include schools, voluntary organisations, charities, churches, community centres. College staff and students may apply as long as they can demonstrate how the community would benefit from their project.

This fund supports Ayrshire-based projects that provide educational opportunities for all age groups.

Allied to the objectives of Ayrshire College, we will consider any project that has a clear educational benefit for Ayrshire communities.

The main criteria for eligibility is:

Sustainability: applicants must be able to demonstrate how they can continue with their project once their funding has finished.

Employability: Applicants must state what employability skills would be learned from undertaking this project.

Benefit Ayrshire College students: it would be desirable if applicants could show how they have collaborated with students/staff in advance of the application to agree any roles and responsibilities. However this is not essential.

The project should start within six months of funding approval. If you know of any community group that could benefit from this funding – tell them to apply now!

Application forms are available on the Ayrshire College Foundation Website - www.ayrshirecollegefoundation.weebly.com

Complete form and email to marketing@ayrshire.ac.uk

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