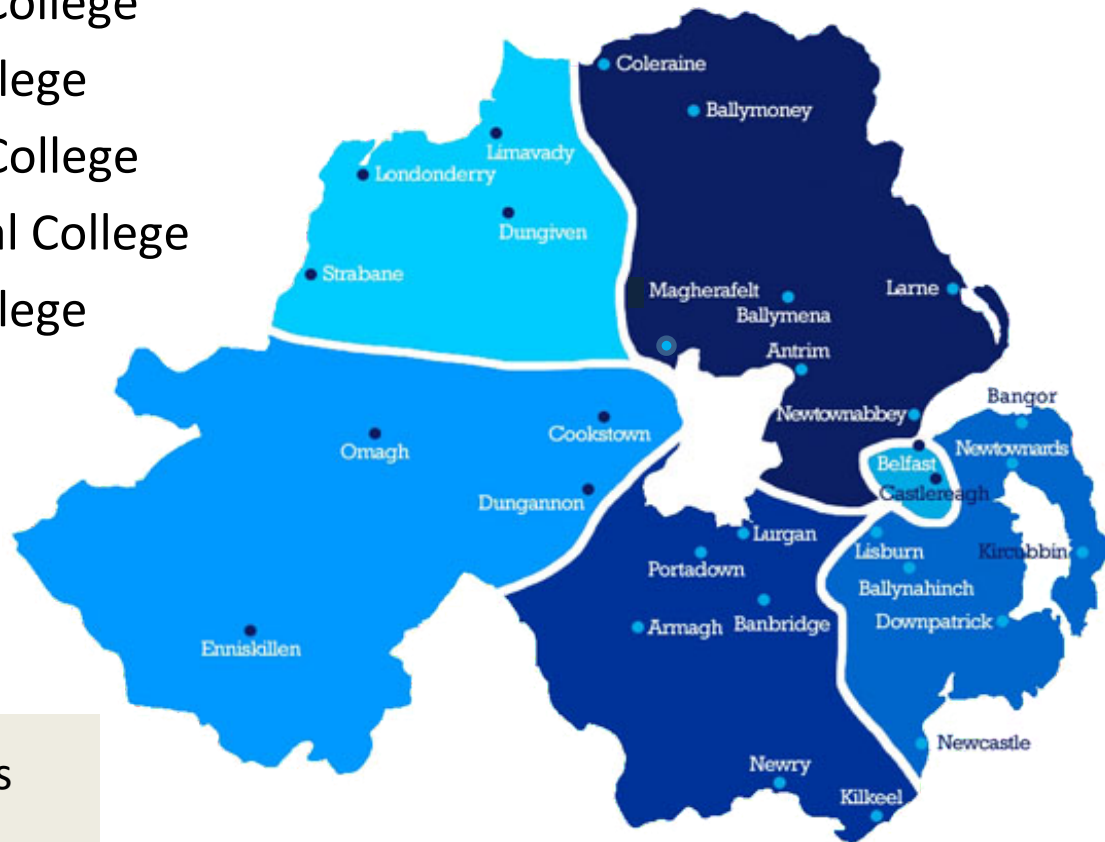


Overview of the FE sector in Northern Ireland

**Karen Lennon
Policy and Public Affairs Manager
Colleges NI**

Overview of the FE sector

- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Northern Regional College
- North West Regional College
- South Eastern Regional College
- Southern Regional College
- South West College



- 6 colleges, 40 campuses
- £260m turnover
- 90,000 students

Role of the FE sector in delivering higher education

- Over 11,000 students in higher education
- Mainly HNDs and Foundation Degrees
- 36% from the most deprived backgrounds
- 35% part time and 65% full time
- HE success rates – 95% retention and 91% achievement

“North West Regional College has helped me get to where I am today. I found my course to be highly innovative, and has offered me good future prospects to branch out to any area of the medical industry. I was well prepared for my Degree level of study as NWRC gave me a great foundation of scientific knowledge.”

Foundation Degree student at NWRC



Connected

The knowledge connection for business

About Connected



- Connected has been funded by the Department for Employment and Learning since 2007- third phase launched this week by Minister Dr Stephen Farry.
- Connected is a knowledge exchange project -fulfilling an important gap in Northern Ireland's current knowledge exchange landscape by helping to make engagement between business and academia more effective and efficient.
- In the second phase of Connected a total of 607 knowledge transfer projects completed – total income to HE and FE over £1.6m.

Universities and Colleges Powerhouses of Innovation



- Through Connected we want to communicate to businesses that our universities and colleges are open to business.
- Universities/colleges are not just places that produce skilled graduates; they also provide a vast diversity of expertise.
- The sharing of expertise and resources can prove mutually beneficial to companies and the further and higher education sectors.

Why Should Businesses Collaborate?



- Provides a flexible extension to your R&D resources
 - Enables you to access specialist equipment and facilities that are not otherwise readily available
 - Reduces costs through short term use of skills, knowledge and expertise
 - Offsets risk by sharing the development journey
 - Helps to leverage further research funding
 - Reduces the time it takes to get a product to market
 - Provides opportunities to develop and extend networks with academics and like-minded businesses
 - Brings new perspectives and broadens your business horizons
 - Helps to generate a skilled workforce and improve the quality of in-house R&D
 - Raises the profile of your business
- 

South Eastern Regional College and Connected

Co-operative work streams: Universities and College

- **SERC & UUJ** Joint Investigation into poor quality Cavity Wall insulation
- **UUJ report** on energy improvements in MountEagles Estate
- **SERC tender report** for Northern Ireland Housing Executive on poor cavity wall insulation and the importance of its findings (206 homes)
- **Zero Carbon homes:** Warmfill panels tests in UUJ
- **Sustainable Farming:** Anaerobic Digestion, Quanta SERC & QUB
- **Slieve Donard Hotel:** possible Commercial Heat pump installation
- **Cleanfields:** Energy from Waste “Super Critical Water Oxidisation”

Public Health Agency: Research into “Hard to Heat Homes” their health and energy costs in human terms. 11 Councils areas
11 homes inspected and solutions implemented, report to complete in a before and after scenario

Local Councils Council energy assessors trained

Insulation Industry Training and Upskilling, NVQ programme

MountEagles estate detailed research on ongoing energy issues. Report on issues and solutions with Video and DVD input from homes

10 Pooled innovation vouchers for National Insulation Association research into energy issues with Cavity wall insulation

BlueBuild Energy innovation voucher on Photovoltaic controller

(These are some of SERC’s ongoing Connected programmes of work)

Connected Successes



BlueBuildEnergy:

- 3 years ago the owner came to SERC to learn about Energy with a wish to set up a Energy business
- Today 3 years later the company employs over 40 staff and have lately opened their own energy park

Warmfill:

- The panels tested in UUJ are now part of a research building project to deliver low cost zero carbon homes. Test homes under development

For more Information

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