



Brightest futures are in construction

Scotland's young building apprentices were rewarded for their efforts in a spectacular awards nights hosted by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) at the Peebles Hydro, Scotland.

The awards night brought together finalists in the *APSE (Scotland) Building and housing apprentice of the year awards 2009* to hear the winners announced in six different categories.

Speaking at the awards night Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive of APSE said *"These young people are amongst the brightest in our industry creating a future for skilled construction workers right here in Scotland. Councils are rising to the challenge in providing first class apprenticeships and they are showing the real value to the economy in developing genuine apprenticeship programmes."*

The finalists of the 2009 building and housing apprenticeship awards were:

Year 1 winner: - Stuart Drummond, West Lothian Council

Year 1 finalists

Ronson Slater, City Building Glasgow
Douglas Gresty, Fife Council
Ryan Chalmers, Renfrewshire Council
Stuart Drummond, West Lothian Council

Year 2 winner Gary Brown, South Lanarkshire Council

Year 2 finalists

Kristopher Fraser, Clackmannanshire Council
Sean McCormick, Falkirk Council
Andrew McGowan, Midlothian Council
Gary Brown, South Lanarkshire Council
John Gallacher West Dunbartonshire Council

Year 3 winner Douglas Ferguson, Fife Council

Year 3 finalists

John Hope East Ayrshire Council
David Hunter, Falkirk Council
Douglas Ferguson, Fife Council
Stewart Mortimer, South Lanarkshire Council
Matthew Campbell, West Lothian Council

Year 4 winner Stephen Millar, City Building Glasgow

Year 4 finalists

Stephen Millar, City Building Glasgow
Stuart McCarthy, City of Edinburgh
Scott Cochrane, East Dunbartonshire Council
Stuart Muir, South Ayrshire Council

Overall winners

Years 1 and 2 Gary Brown, South Lanarkshire Council

Years 3 and 4 Douglas Ferguson, Fife Council

APSE's Scottish Chair Cllr Frank Anderson of West Lothian Council said "*Gary and Douglas are typical of the calibre of young people who are keen to prove to society that there are excellent career prospects within local authorities*" he added "*it is particularly pleasing that after a tough selection process Gary and Douglas have been named as apprentices of the year. It is fitting for these young men as they truly are role models for apprentices*".

Ends

Notes to editors

- APSE is the Association for Public Service Excellence and works with over 300 local authorities throughout the UK promoting excellence in front line local government services
- APSE Scotland represents all Scottish Local Authorities and the awards night was introduced to reflect the work by Scotland's local councils in promoting and developing apprenticeship programmes in construction skills.
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