

SIE PRESS RELEASE: Inspiring Educators are Shaping the Future of education in Scotland

24 Sept 2020

The winners of the **Imaginative Educator Awards** were announced yesterday at the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE)'s **Shaping the Future** online conference. The awards recognise exceptional responses from individual educators and teams in colleges and universities to the teaching challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Award winners per category are:

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATOR, UNIVERSITY

**Professor Kathleen Riach,
Director, Responsible & Sustainable Management
University of Glasgow**

Launched an intergenerational mentoring scheme, connecting students with over-50s to help develop digital access and confidence during lockdown.

TEAM, UNIVERSITY

**RGU Education & Support
(EIG, GAC, EPE & Academic Schools)
Robert Gordon University**

Developed innovative procedures to enhance student skillsets and preparation for self-employment during Covid-19, including online delivery of general teaching as well as commencement of SISA-accredited modules the creation of an online Entrepreneurship Summer School.

INDIVIDUAL EDUCATOR, COLLEGE

**Helena Good,
Edinburgh College**

Worked with the class of 2020 to replace final projects with real world briefs, matching students with charities and businesses affected by COVID-19.

TEAM, COLLEGE

Dance Studio Scotland, Glasgow Clyde College

Created a unified dance piece by editing together choreography filmed by students in isolation, which in turn became the prototype for an innovative, collaborative approach to the virtual staging of an end of term ensemble performance.

The **Shaping the Future** conference wrapped up the Festival of Innovation, a summer long programme of inspirational interviews, activities and competitions.

Speaking about the winners, Fiona Godsman, Chief Executive of SIE said:

“Congratulations to all our award winners. The best responses had the potential to build a positive legacy beyond the current crisis and address the challenges of the future. The winners, and all of the finalists, should be very proud of themselves.

During the summer-long Festival of Innovation, we have sought to provide inspiration, support, and recognise the excellent work of our educators here in Scotland and the imagination and potential of our students. While it comes to an end with the Conference, there is much to celebrate.

Scotland’s universities and colleges have proven themselves up to not just the current crisis but the challenges of the future.”

ENDS

For Press Enquiries, contact Scott McKellar, SIE Marketing & Communications Manager (s.mckellar@sie.ac.uk)

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. About SIE

The Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) works nationally to promote and support enterprise and entrepreneurship in Scotland’s universities and colleges. SIE creates opportunities for students to be innovative and works closely with academic institutions to champion enterprise education and help students start new innovative businesses and national competitions. For more information, visit: <https://www.sie.ac.uk/>

2. The Festival of Innovation

The Festival of Innovation was a summer-long programme of online events, challenges and inspirational interviews

The festival closed with the **Shaping the Future** online conference for educators on 23 September 2020 featuring international speakers, an interactive panel debate on empowering students, and workshop sessions. Keynote speakers included Professor Geoffrey Scott (Emeritus Professor of Higher Education and Sustainability at the University of Western Sydney and leader of the UN endorsed Regional Centre of Expertise in Education for Sustainable Development – Greater Western Sydney), and Professor Todd Davey (Associate Professor for Entrepreneurship, Institut Mines-Telecom Business School and Director, Strategy and Performance at the University Industry Innovation Network (UIIN)).

3. Full list of the Finalists of the 'Imaginative Educator' Awards

INDIVIDUALS - College

Helena Good – Lecturer, HND Visual Design, Edinburgh College

Worked with the class of 2020 to replace final projects with real world briefs, matching students with charities and businesses affected by Covid-19.

Graeme Mair – Lecturer, HNC Coaching and Developing Sport, West Lothian College

Moved quickly to produce a mapping document and gather witness testimonies in support of students' achievements and course completion, allowing them to graduate.

Steven Taylor – Lecturer, National Certificate in Photography, Dumfries & Galloway College

Reimagined his students' portfolio project to create bodies of work about their lockdown experience and present them professionally online.

INDIVIDUALS – University

Kathleen Riach – Director, Responsible & Sustainable Management, University of Glasgow

Launched an intergenerational mentoring scheme, connecting students with over-50s to help develop digital access and confidence during lockdown.

Edward Pollock – Startup Coordinator, Robert Gordon University

Rapidly designed, developed and delivered RGU's first Entrepreneurship Summer School, establishing a strong framework for future virtual activities.

Robert Pembleton – Enterprise Officer, University of Edinburgh

Reworked planned events for safe and effective remote delivery, collaborating in depth to take full advantage of online and asynchronous work styles and innovate around a brand new approach to enterprise education.

TEAMS - College

Dance Studio Scotland @ Glasgow Clyde College

Created a unified dance piece by editing together choreography filmed by students in isolation, which in turn became the prototype for an innovative, collaborative approach to the virtual staging of an end of term ensemble performance.

Children's Hearings Scotland Learning Academy, West Lothian College

Pivoted rapidly to highly flexible remote training for a student body with diverse access needs, and successfully delivered teaching within a tight window to allow candidates to be appointed to the Children's Panel on time.

Plumbing and Gas Teaching Team, South Lanarkshire College

Developed a wide range of alternative tools and methods for conducting remote assessments, which were externally recognised and validated with such success that they were subsequently rolled out across the sector.

TEAMS – University

Employability Hub, Robert Gordon University

Created an 8-week career development programme to improve student and graduate understanding of the post Covid-19 career environment, and to provide them with competitive tools and skills for enhanced employability.

MSc Physiotherapy, Robert Gordon University

Adapted course structure to bring forward theoretical components within a tight learning timeline, taking advantage of online tools to deliver remote teaching, broaden access to materials and advice, and to redesign the assessment process.

Careers Team, University of Aberdeen

Rapidly adapted both the STAR Award and Leadership Academy with a high degree of flexibility to students experiencing disruption, and launched the Aberdeen Employability Boost Award, tailored to address employability around Covid-19.

RGU Education & Support (EIG, GAC, EPE & Academic Schools), Robert Gordon University

Developed innovative procedures to enhance student skillsets and preparation for self-employment during Covid-19, including online delivery of general teaching as well as commencement of SISA-accredited modules the creation of an online Entrepreneurship Summer School.