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Press Release

CRC CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS TO BUILD WORLDSKILLS ECO HOUSE

Construction students at Cambridge Regional College will demonstrate their talents in front of thousands of people this year as part of WorldSkills London 2011 – an international showcase for young people.

The College has been chosen to lead an innovative project to build an eco house at ExCel, in the heart of London's Docklands, for the four days of the high-profile event in October. More than 150,000 people are expected to visit the WorldSkills competition, where students from 50 countries will compete against each other in the Olympics of the skills world.

CRC, the only FE college in the country to offer a course in Modern Methods of Construction and a specialist in eco construction training programmes, will head a team from seven other major FE colleges involved in the project.

The College has been chosen to provide and erect the structure of the eco-house, which will take place on the first day. Over the next few days, students from other colleges will complete the project and install solar panels, air source heat pumps and rainwater harvesting systems.

Barrie Wicklen, head of sustainable development at CRC, said it was a great honour for the College to be asked to lead on such a prestigious project.



Barrie Wicklen with CRC's timber-framed house in the SmartLife Centre

“We are absolutely delighted to have been asked to take part in the project, which will be one of the highlights for the 150,000 visitors to WorldSkills 2011. It will demonstrate that we are delivering the skills and knowledge so essential for developing a carbon-ready workforce to meet the needs of a low carbon economy, and is a superb opportunity for our students to show off their talents on a world stage,” he said.

“The eco house will be one of the first things visitors see as they arrive at the site, and they will be able to watch the construction process every step of the way.”

Six students from the College will be chosen to take part in the project, which involves eight other colleges, including Hull, Newcastle, MidKent and Leeds College of Building.

There will be a dry run of the complete construction project at CRC on June 27, using a timber-frame building donated to the College by Howarth Timber Engineering, part of the UK's largest privately owned and operated timber group, and used daily for training in the SmartLife centre at CRC.

WorldSkills takes place every two years, bringing together 1,000 skills 'Olympians' from across the globe to compete for Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in 45 different skills categories.

As well as watching the competitors, visitors will be able to have a go at a wide range of skills, from creative arts to cabinet-making, with experts on hand to share knowledge and careers advice.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based learning contracts in the Eastern Region.