Farry congratulates Cloud technology grads

Academy students on pilot scheme awarded at ceremony

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The Minister for Education and Learning Dr Stephen Farry hosted an awards ceremony for graduates from the pilot Cloud Technology Academy recently.

The Cloud Technology Academy trained 14 graduates with the skills and accredited qualifications identified by ICT sector employers for new job opportunities in the growing area of Cloud Technology.

The Academy involved 15 weeks training for the trainees at Belfast Met to achieve the HP Accredited Technical Associate qualification.

This was followed by a six week work placement with one of the participating companies.

At the ceremony in the Long Gallery at Parliament Buildings, Mininster Farry congratulated the graduates on completing the Academy.

He said: "The Cloud Academy is an excellent example of how my Department is supporting graduates to find employment.

"Officials from Assured Skills Branch have worked closely with a group of employers from the ICT sector and Belfast Met to design and deliver this 21 week course to upskill graduates in Cloud Technology.

"The Academy model has now been in existence for a number of years and has proved very successful.

"It is now being offered in a number of areas, including Software Testing and Data Analytics, with 96 per cent of graduate's successfully entering employment.

"It is being developed further to meet employer demands in other sectors.

"We have a vast wealth of skills and qualifications amongst those who are currently out of work and the Academy model is an effective way of harnessing those skills to grow our local economy."

The ceremony was attended by the Academy trainees and their guests, along with representatives of and Belfast Met and participating employers.

Justin Edwards, Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Curriculum at Belfast Met added: "The College plays a vital role in designing and delivering IT Academy programmes that equip recent graduates with the skills which are in high demand which are in high demand for dynamic roles in our burgeoning IT sector."

Daniel Russell receiving his Top Student Award from Andrew Flood of Prodigy Learning