

## NORTH WEST REGION LANCASHIRE & CUMBRIA GROUP

### Leading the Way in Developing Industry Focussed Future Skills



▲ A new state-of-the-art, low carbon VR facility has been developed at the Nelson and Colne College Group

**T**he virtual 'Future Skills and Technologies' seminar on 24th February welcomed members from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in the UK (CILT) with an interest in embedding new technologies and improving business productivity and innovation.

Presentations showcased Nelson and Colne College Group's exciting 2022 plans following significant funding\* to invest in two key projects involving Virtual Reality (VR) and Electric Vehicles (EV) at both their Accrington and Rossendale College and Nelson and Colne College campuses.

The College Group welcomed the opportunity to engage with members of the CILT to discuss how these technologies can help develop their workforce and enhance productivity and efficiency and strive towards achieving their goals around net zero. As well as welcoming discussion on the College Group's projects to ensure they match the needs of industry.

#### Virtual Reality and Immersive Experiences

A new state-of-the-art, low carbon VR facility has been developed in partnership with relevant employers and skills providers to address the future skills required by industry to tackle the low carbon agenda.

Nelson and Colne College Group will explore, catalogue, and communicate widely these VR specialist facilities and expertise with organisations and businesses across the region.

Structured around a VR platform, the demonstrator will offer effective and stimulating content and a low cost/low risk experience of high risk/costly production and operational processes. Additionally, it will offer immersive innovation, training, networking and collaboration experiences both on and off site.

#### Electric Vehicles

As the world moves away from petrol fueled vehicles, Electric Vehicles (EVs) will become more prominent and will have an impact on all businesses going forward.

The College group has significantly invested in industry standard training facilities for specialisms within the EV servicing and infrastructure field and is looking to work collaboratively with employers to develop the offer further.

The new facilities will cover:

- EV fault diagnosis
- EV battery fault diagnosis
- EV servicing and maintenance
- EV charging infrastructure

Through its collaboration with CILT and working closely with industry, believe that businesses can be 'ahead of the curve.' By adopting new and exciting technologies they can grow and develop as well as shape their current workforce and attract new talent through these innovative projects.

The Nelson and Colne College Group is made up of three merged colleges; Nelson and Colne College, Accrington and Rossendale College and Lancashire Adult Learning. It is also sponsor to Pendle Education Trust. Collaboration sits at the heart of its success, and the Group exists to create the extraordinary.

#### Next CILT event

Our next event on 29th March at 6pm is titled Drug Driving – The Scale of the Problem. Our hosts DTec International Ltd is a leading company in providing certified drug and alcohol screening.

Join us for an interactive discussion where we will outline best practice around drug and alcohol screening and insights into current police statistics on drug/drink driving.

*\*The funding for these initiatives has been provided from a government Skills Development Fund designed to support the move to greener technologies.*

**Rachael Scanlin-Davis** FCILT  
Chair, North West Group.